

MiG shot down airliner with 269 on board, says Shultz

US-Soviet crisis over jumbo jet

From Nicholas Ashford in Washington, Richard Hanson in Tokyo and Richard Owen in Moscow

Soviet and American leaders were mobilizing for a new crisis today after Washington accused the Soviet Union of shooting down a South Korean jumbo jet with 269 people on board.

President Andropov was believed to be returning to Moscow from holiday, while in Washington President Reagan instructed Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, to demand an immediate and full account of the incident from the Soviet Union.

The United States and Japan are considering requesting a special session of the United Nations Security Council.

In the space of 12 minutes, Korean Airlines Flight 007 from New York to Seoul via Anchorage plunged from 10,000 metres to disappear from the

radar screens after straying 720 kilometres off course into Soviet airspace over the military island of Sakhalin, between northern Japan and Siberia.

Among the passengers - the majority Koreans, Taiwanese and Japanese - was Mr Lawrence McDonald, head of the US House of Representatives armed services committee. Washington claimed that Soviet MiG jets attacked the aircraft.

After a day of near-silence on the incident, Moscow said last night that an unidentified aircraft twice violated its airspace and that Soviet fighters were scrambled to guide it to the nearest landing point, but that it failed to respond to signals. The statement did not admit to shooting down the aircraft.

Reports from Tokyo, quoting sources in intelligence and the Japanese Defence Agency, said that the MiG pilot was heard saying to his base Sakhalin: "I am



going to fire a missile. The target is the KAL (Korean Air Lines) plane."

In a further exchange Sakhalin said: "Take aim at target." Pilot: "Aim taken." Sakhalin: "Fire." Pilot: "Fired."

According to Kyodo News Agency, this exchange occurred three times, indicating the firing of three missiles.

In Washington, Mr Shultz, his voice quivering with emotion, said "We can see

no excuse whatsoever for this appalling act."

Mr Shultz, in detailed account of the incident monitored by an American base in Japan, said that the Russians had tracked the KAL flight for 2½ hours from their Sakhalin base; that up to eight Soviet jets in constant touch with their ground control had "reacted" to the aircraft's presence and that the Russian pilot had visual contact with his target.

Soviet naval vessels and aircraft are searching the area for signs of the

aircraft, according to Washington and Tokyo. American and Japanese rescue units are also searching.

Mr Richard Burt, the US Assistant Secretary of State, said yesterday that some wreckage and a kerosene slick had been spotted in the crash area, but there was no indication of survivors.

A South Korean airline official said in New York that 240 passengers and 29 crew had been on board the missing airliner. Many of the nationalities were still unknown last night and the official said: "We just cannot tell if there are any British." Reports from Seoul listed 72 Koreans, between 22 and 27 Japanese and 34 Taiwanese.

It was not known why the jet had drifted so far from its flight path, which should have taken it over Japan.

If the death toll in the disaster is 269, it will be the fifth most serious crash in the history of aviation.

Shultz press conference

'We react with revulsion to this attack'

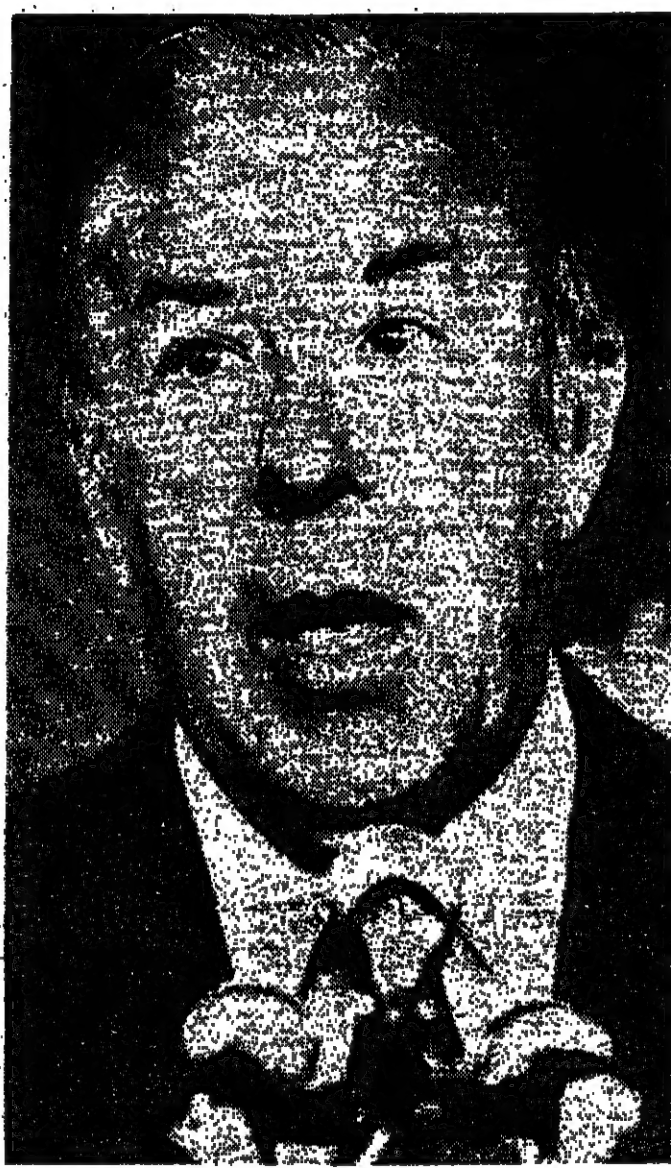
Washington (AP) - The following is the text of Mr George Shultz's briefing yesterday on the disappearance of the South Korean airliner.

At approximately 1600 hours GMT, the aircraft came to the attention of the Soviet radar. It was tracked by the Soviets from that time. The aircraft strayed into Soviet air space over the Kamchatka peninsula and over the Sea of Okhotsk and over the Sakhalin Islands. The Soviets tracked the commercial airliner for some 2½ hours.

A Soviet pilot recorded visual contact with the aircraft at 1812 hours. The Soviet plane was, we know, in constant contact with its ground control. At 1821 hours the Korean aircraft was reported by the Soviet pilot at 10,000 metres. At 1826 hours the Soviet pilot reported that he fired a missile and the target was destroyed.

At 1830 hours the Korean aircraft was reported by radar at 5,000 metres. At 1838 hours the Korean plane disappeared from the radar screen. We know that at least eight Soviet fighters reacted at one time or another to the aircraft. The pilot who shot the aircraft down reported after the attack that he had fired a missile, that he had destroyed the target and that he was breaking away.

About an hour later, the Soviet controllers ordered a number of their search aircraft to conduct search-and-rescue activities in the vicinity of the last position of the Korean airliner. The Soviet Union, we know, has been reflecting by Soviet tracking. One of these aircraft reported finding kerosene



Mr Shultz: "We can see no excuse whatsoever."

President about this matter and what did he say?

A: I haven't spoken to the President as yet.

Q: Mr Secretary, can you tell us, did the Soviet Union give any warning to land or try to force it down before it shot it down?

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Shocked Reagan demands full story

From Our Correspondent Washington

President Reagan, described as "very concerned and deeply disturbed" about the loss of life on board the Korean jet, has directed Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, to demand an immediate and full account of the incident from the Soviet Union.

A special White House statement said: "There are no circumstances that can justify the unprecedented attack on an unarmed civilian aircraft. The Soviet Union owes an explanation to the world about how and why this tragedy has occurred."

The terse comment was made after President Reagan, who is on holiday at his ranch near Santa Barbara in California, had spoken by telephone with Mr Shultz in Washington.

Former Secretary of State, Dr Henry Kissinger, said it was an "outrageous, unforgivable act" that these planes would follow a commercial aircraft, for two hours and then just shoot it down callously.

● LONDON: The Foreign Office last night described the disaster as "deeply disturbing and, on the face of it, wholly inexplicable" (Henry Stanhope writes). Diplomats were in close contact with Seoul and New York, trying to check whether any British passengers had been on board.

● OTTAWA: The Canadian Government is calling on the Soviet Embassy here to demand an explanation for the "unprovoked attack" on the jet. External Relations Minister Mr Jean-Luc Pepin said (AP reports).

At least two and possibly 10 Canadian residents were on board the aircraft.

Tass says we do not know aircraft's fate

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

President Andropov was believed to be cutting short a brief holiday yesterday to deal with a potential crisis in Soviet-American relations after the disappearance of a South Korean airliner near the island of Sakhalin, off the Soviet far eastern coast.

Soviet officials maintained that Moscow had no knowledge of the aircraft's fate and that it had left Soviet air space.

Tass news agency said in a brief statement that an unidentified aircraft had entered Soviet air space over the Kamchatka peninsula from the direction of the Pacific and had again "violated Soviet air space" a second time over Sakhalin.

Tass said it did not have navigation lights, did not respond to queries and did not enter into contact with "the dispatched service", a reference to Soviet interceptors.

The report said "fighters of the anti-aircraft defence" had been sent to intercept the "intruder" and had tried to give it assistance by directing it to the nearest airfield.

The aircraft had "not reacted to the signals and warnings from the Soviet fighters" and had then continued its flight in the direction of the Sea of Japan.

The Kremlin remained silent yesterday on the fate of the jumbo jet, but Asian diplomats in Moscow said Soviet denials of responsibility were not convincing.

There was no immediate reaction to charges by Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, that the aircraft had been shot down by a Soviet fighter.

Sources said that if Mr Shultz's information, based on interception of Soviet military conver-

sations, was correct, Mr Andropov would take steps to avoid a sharp deterioration in relations with the US and Japan.

Earlier in the day Tass carried a six-line report on the incident in Russian, but it was not repeated in the agency's English service. The report, also carried by Moscow radio, said an airliner had disappeared off the northern coast of Japan, but did not elaborate.

A senior Japanese diplomat, Mr Hisashi Owada, went to the Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday

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afternoon and was told that the Government had no knowledge of the missing aircraft. Officials said it had not landed on Soviet territory "and is therefore not located on Soviet territory".

Asian diplomats said they found this formula unconvincing since it left open the possibility that the aircraft had exploded in mid-air or crashed into the sea.

Sources pointed out that when a South Korean airliner was forced down by MiG fighters in 1978 the Russians initially denied all knowledge of it.

In yesterday's incident, the aircraft, bound for Tokyo, disappeared from radar screens as it approached northern Japan. The Japanese Air Force later said it believed an aircraft had been intercepted, forced or shot down near Sakhalin.

Druze leader declares war on Lebanese Government

From Robert Fisk Beirut

The Lebanese Army's military push into West Beirut began to reap bitter political results for President Amin Gemayel yesterday. A second militia leader rejected his call for a national reconciliation and Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, made a "declaration of war" against the Lebanese Government.

As he did so - at the same time threatening United States Marines of the multinational peace-keeping force in Beirut - shells fired from Druze areas, under Syrian Army occupation, started to explode around the Presidential Palace, the Lebanese Defence Ministry and the residence of the American ambassador.

Even more chilling were reports from both Lebanese police authorities and right-wing radio stations that 24 Christian villagers, most of them women and children, had been massacred in a small village in the Meta Hill by Druze who wanted to take revenge for the Lebanese Army's operation against Muslim militias in west Beirut.

There was further grim news

Reagan sends in naval force

Washington (AP) - President Reagan yesterday ordered a naval amphibious force to the Mediterranean to back up US marines in Lebanon and directed the aircraft carrier Eisenhower to remain in the region.

The Defence Department announced that 1,600 Marines would sail from East Africa today to stand off the coast of Lebanon. It said there were no plans to send this additional Marine unit ashore in Lebanon.

for Mr Gemayel during the day when Lebanese troops - whom the Government had earlier claimed to be in full control of the city - found themselves under attack by militiamen using rifles, machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's special envoy, was in conference with President Gemayel when the first shells landed around the palace at Baabda just east of Beirut. They

appeared to be deliberately timed to coincide with a press conference that Mr Jumblatt was then holding in Damascus, a gathering at which the Druze leader declared that his militia were now in a state of war with the Lebanese authorities.

He accused the United States and the troops of the multinational force in Beirut, including Britain, of supporting an attempt by the Christian Phalangists, through Mr Gemayel, to form a one-party dictatorship in Lebanon.

It is just this sort of diatribe that has convinced Mr McFarlane that Syria is behind the anti-Government violence in Beirut. He believes - and has been told as much by American officials and Lebanese Druze militia Bureau operatives - that the battles in west Beirut were deliberately fomented by agents of the Syrian secret service.

Syria is quite capable of sending its agents on such missions but the roots of the crisis in Beirut lie much deeper than this.

New-look army, page 4

Shore and Kinnock clash on economy

By Anthony Beving, Political Correspondent

Mr Peter Shore, the Shadow chancellor and an outside contender for the Labour leadership, said last night that the party's entire economic strategy would fall without a firm agreement on incomes control.

That view contrasted starkly with a speech made by Mr Neil Kinnock, the favourite for the leadership, in a considered statement on economic policy, delivered in his Welsh constituency. Mr Kinnock did not mention pay controls once.

Mr Shore said in Southampton, that the existing component in Labour's election campaign was the answer to the central economic question: "How will you control inflation?"

He said: "We did have an answer: price controls, tax cuts and the national economic assessment. But these were coded words, and the electorate is not in the business of deciphering codes."

The question was how Labour was going to reconcile the continuing role of collective bargaining with the need to

restrain inflation. "It is essential that we find the answer," Mr Shore said.

"For it is indeed the missing component in what is otherwise a coherent policy for economic expansion. But I have to tell you in all candour that, without a firm agreement on incomes, we shall not be able to achieve our goals of rapid economic expansion and a rapid reduction in unemployment," he said.

Speaking at the same time in South Wales, Mr Kinnock concentrated on attacking the Conservatives' "smug sermons" about borrowing, the need for public investment, and the pre-election "massage" of the economy which had been reversed since Mrs Margaret Thatcher was returned to office on June 9.

But in his summary of Labour policy he said the mechanism for pulling together the resources and abilities of Britain exists in Labour's plans for the development of British industry and the operation of the national economic assessment.

US tourists boost Atlantic air traffic

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Airlines carrying passengers across the Atlantic report record loads as American tourists flood into Britain and Europe on the back of a strong dollar and a US economy moving out of recession.

Traffic in July - the latest month for which full figures are available - was 12-20 per cent up on last year and the highest since the boom of 1979.

British Airways and Pan American report traffic rises of 14 per cent compared with 1982, and aircraft flying 80 per cent full. Transworld Airlines claims a 17.9 rise compared with last year and record loads.

But most successful of all was the jet newcomer People Express. Its single jumbo carried

more than 400 passengers on each of its five jet-price flights a week between Gatwick and New York, giving a load factor of over 90 per cent.

A feature of the boom is that 60 per cent of the traffic originated in the US, compared with only 40 per cent in 1979. The airlines are jubilant and all expect a profit from Atlantic operations after four lean years.

For TWA, which expects a \$200m operating profit from the Atlantic this year, British manager, Mr Larry Langley, said yesterday: "We are witnessing a graphic contradiction of many self-styled pessimists who have commented over the years on over-capacity of seats and

absence of profitability on Atlantic routes. There is certainly no evidence of over-capacity this year and profitability is expected."

British Airways said: "It is certainly a happy picture on the Atlantic, and we expect to make a profit from our operations. There are definite signs of an end to the recession."

PanAm said: "The industry has had a very good summer, primarily because of the strong dollar."

Total traffic between London and the US in July was 700,000 - the most recorded in a single month, according to the British Airports Authority. The reason, the authority said, was "in-

creased US tourists to the UK, encouraged by the sudden appearance of more dollars in their pockets and an awareness that each dollar would last longer in the UK than it did in recent years."

Despite the summer boom, the airlines face the winter with some foreboding.

Cut-price single fares such as British Airways' £156 from Heathrow to New York midweek have been scrapped, and instead all airlines are now relying on a £249 advance purchase New York return to boost traffic from its usual low levels in November and December. This is the lowest for several years and some £30 lower than last year.

Union to support Hattersley for Labour leader

Britain's third largest union is ready to throw its weight behind Mr Roy Hattersley in his campaign for the leadership of the Labour Party.

Mr Hattersley, trying to stop a landslide for Mr Neil Kinnock in the leadership contest, appears to have won the support of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union.

Their regional leaders announced that a complicated consultation process lasting more than seven weeks had shown strong shopfloor support for Mr Hattersley with Mr Kinnock as his deputy.

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According to this publisher, many people do not realise how much they could influence others simply by speaking and writing with greater power, authority and precision. Whether you are presenting a report, training a child, fighting for a cause, making a sale, writing an essay, or asking for a rise - your success depends upon the words you use.

Many video "nasties" Presiding over the incineration as the chairman of Merseyside's Public Protection Committee, Mr John Gallagher, who is calling for licensing system for video libraries.

Mr Gallagher added that many apes were being re-recorded to take them into video "nasties". Warwickshire County Council rating standards officers have fixed 1,200 tapes, believed to be from four houses on the Lydenham Estate, Leamington

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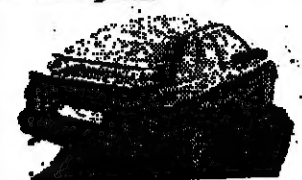
Full details of this easy-to-follow method for developing mastery of English have been printed in a fascinating new book, "Good English - the Language of Success", sent free on request. No obligation. Just fill in and return the coupon below (no need even to stamp your name).

Mr John Hall the Norfolk assistant chief constable who will hand over the keys to the new car, said yesterday: "An inquiry is still going on into the incident to see if there are any lessons to be learnt."

"We were determined from the outset that Mr Phillips would not lose in any way. We hired a car for him and we could find a replacement now."

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Well schooled... Lorna Bourke looks at the high cost of private education.
Well shed... How to choose the right shoes for your children.
What prospects? Frances Williams analyses the August unemployment figures.



Internal combustion... Third and final part of the competition to win a Ford Sierra XR4i.
External combustion... Are smokers a drag? A look at Britons' attitudes to the weed.
Holy smoke... The American evangelists out to convert you.

Britain calls for release of officers

Britain has called for the release of the six white Zimbabwe Air Force officers who were immediately rearrested after being charged of sabotage charges. The Acting High Commissioner of Zimbabwe in London was called to the Foreign Office yesterday and told that the British Government and people were "very concerned and disturbed".

NHS pressure

A new government circular gives health authorities the clearest indication yet that they are expected to privatize more of their domestic, catering and laundry services.

Lloyd's warning

Sir Peter Green, chairman of Lloyd's, the London insurance market, has given a warning that insurance rates are too low, despite record profits of £264m.

PIE condemned

The Home Secretary condemned the views of the Pseudophilosophical Information Exchange, which would not say more because of "a possibility of prosecution against individual members."

Stage museum

Lord Gower, Minister for the Arts, has given the go-ahead for a theatre museum in London less than two months after he postponed the project.

College cuts

Three of the six or so colleges threatened with closure or merger under cuts recommended by government advisers have been named.

Falklands vote

A UN committee endorsed a resolution calling on London and Buenos Aires to resume negotiations over the sovereignty of the Falklands.

Jobs threat

The new chairman of British Shipbuilders, Mr Graham Day, has announced that further job losses and yard closures may be needed.

Poland 'normal'

The Polish press yesterday tried to portray life in the country as normal despite Wednesday's pro-Solidarity demonstrations and clashes in Warsaw, Gdansk and other cities.

£43m issue

Tate & Lyle, the sugar group, is planning to raise £43m through a rights issue to its shareholders.

Roland Rat goes

TV-am is to drop its popular puppet character Roland Rat after the school holidays and replace him with Popeye cartoons.

Aoki leads

Isao Aoki (Japan) has a first round of 65 in the European Open at Sunningdale. Craig Francis, a millionaire amateur held the lead for five hours.

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Letters: On seizure of documents, from Mr J. G. Watson; Zimbabwe arrests, from Mr Humphrey Berkeley; confidential Treasury paper, from Mr D. J. Critchley. Leading articles: Hanan; Youth Training Scheme. Features: pages 6-8. Misfit Britain; the unions' decline; fighting illiteracy; West Germany waiting for Pershing. Special Report, pages 16 and 17. Review of the air freight industry. Obituary, page 10. Dr Harry Collier.

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Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

While the rest of us were enjoying the August sunshine the Labour leadership contest was proceeding on its way. But it is notable how little has changed since we packed our bags at the end of July. Mr. Kinnock remains well out in front, so he has been adopting the customary tactics for a front-runner of a low-key campaign: no need to hustle for more votes, just to risk losing those committed to him.

Mr. Shere continues to win respect for the conviction of his campaign, but he still seems to have no chance of getting into the race. There are one or two MPs who are thinking of swinging to him because they have been impressed by his performance. That may perhaps save him from humiliation, but it will not affect the result.

From the moment, right at the beginning of the campaign, that a number of union leaders decided that it was necessary to go for a much younger person after Mr. Foot, Mr. Shere has been cast as yesterday's man.

Mr. Hattersley is still Mr. Kinnock's closest challenger, but still at a distance that must be very comforting to Mr. Kinnock. So attention is now focused if anything even more than it was upon the race for the deputy leadership. Here there is a change since July in that there is quite a widespread belief that Mr. Meacher now has a significantly stronger chance of defeating Mr. Hattersley.

Outcome by no means certain

I am doubtful if this judgment is correct. The outcome is by no means certain, partly because a number of unions and constituency parties are consulting their members before deciding how to vote. But I still believe that Mr. Hattersley has a better chance because it must be in Mr. Kinnock's interest for him to be elected. With Mr. Meacher as his deputy, Mr. Kinnock's prospects of ever becoming Prime Minister would be much reduced.

A Kinnock-Meacher ticket would be electorally damaging because it would be taken as proof that Labour was drifting irrevocably to the left. That would have a devastating effect on the morale of the centre-right, which in turn would have further repercussions on the party's electoral standing.

Mr. Kinnock must be fully aware of this. He has taken the prudent and legitimate line for a probable party leader of declining to state publicly any preference for his deputy. But it would be surprising if he has failed to indicate privately to a few sympathetic union leaders the advantages of having Mr. Hattersley as deputy. Even if Mr. Kinnock has been as tight-lipped in private as he has in public, enough union leaders and MPs ought to be able to read the score for themselves.

Crucial figure in next phase

So I still think that Mr. Hattersley probably has the edge for the deputy leadership. But, win or lose, he will be a crucial figure in Labour's next phase. Only he would seem to stand much chance of rallying the party's centre-right, where there is now a widespread sense of hopelessness.

The left is expected to recapture control of the national executive committee at the party conference. The new parliamentary party is likely to elect more left-wingers to the Shadow Cabinet and there is no sign of Labour policies being brought more in line with the preferences of the general public.

Some centre-right MPs are talking of drifting out of the party or out of Parliament, or both, if Mr. Meacher is elected - though there is no sign yet of a potential mass breakaway.

Whoever is elected deputy leader, there is the possibility of a new parliamentary group being formed which would be designed to have a broader appeal than the present essentially right-wing Manifesto Group. But some of these manoeuvres are likely to be of much consequence unless support is mobilized by a leading figure in the party.

Whether Mr. Hattersley would find this easier or harder to do as deputy leader is a question that divides even his active supporters. Whether he has the stomach for the task would have been doubted until very recently.

He has always had the reputation of being guided by a highly cautious and cautious sense of his own self-interest. Yet one of the most striking features of the political scene at present has been the way in which Mr. Meacher has been able to lead the party into action in the face of

New pressure on hospitals to use private contractors

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities are to get the clearest indication yet that the Government expects them to contract out more of their domestic catering and laundry services to private companies.

Next week they will receive a circular on privatization, a copy of which has been leaked to *The Times*. It tells the health authorities that value-added tax on services contracted out will be refunded, starting from yesterday's date.

They will be given a list of private contractors with which ministers and officials have had talks, and they will be offered independent professional help in assessing tenders from private contractors.

The circular is bound to fuel the opposition of health service unions, who will be proposing measures against privatization of public services at Trades Union Congress next week. Unlike former drafts, the new circular asks health authorities simply to inform staff interests of any proposed contract, rather than to consult them, instead of to "consult" them.

It says that the Government's expenditure plans envisage that improvements in service to patients will "in part depend on getting better value for money out of available resources. The scope for savings in hospital support services is potentially high, and the Government believes that the use of private contractors often prove the most cost-effective way of achieving them."

The circular tells district health authorities to test the cost effectiveness of their domestic catering, and laundry services by putting them out to tender.

They are required to seek tenders for laundry services on all occasions when capital investment of £500,000 or more is proposed for the upgrading, building, or important re-equipping of a health service laundry.

Health authorities are asked to produce plans for implementing the circular by the end of next February.

The circular will add to the

anxiety of many health authorities that they are being pushed into privatization.

The National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) challenged the Government last night to prove its claim that privatization would be more cost-effective.

The Nalgo said that since 1965 the number of private contractors providing catering services for hospitals had dropped from 35 to 2, and one of those had recently stopped supplying a night service for the staff at the Maudsley Hospital, London, because it was making a loss.

Social workers boycott exam

Full implementation of the new Mental Health Act could be delayed by a ban imposed by Nalgo on cooperation with a new examination system for social workers.

The Act, which comes into force on September 30, will give social workers new powers on compulsory admission of patients to psychiatric hospitals once they have been "approved" under the Act. The Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work (CCETSW) estimates that 4,750 social workers will need extra training and assessment.

In a circular to Nalgo branches, Mr. Geoffrey Drain, the general secretary, said examination plans were "ill thought-out, riddled with professional and practical problems, and requiring radical review."

Nalgo wants present mental welfare officers to be excluded from the assessment process on the ground that they already do similar work, new gradings for social workers qualified under the Act, and training in mental health work to be available to all social workers. Those issues will be raised at a meeting with employers on September 27.

The British Association of Social Workers yesterday deplored Nalgo's action, saying that the Act offered a better deal for the mentally ill.

Colleges under threat from cuts identified

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Three of the six or so colleges that face closure or merger because of cuts recommended by government advisers have been identified. They are: Nottigham College in Nottigham, Hertfordshire College of Higher Education, and Fleetwood Nautical College in Lancashire.

The Nottigham and Hertfordshire colleges confirmed yesterday that they had received letters from the National Advisory Body for local authority higher education to say that their existence as independent institutions was at risk. Fleetwood was told several weeks ago.

The officials propose that Nottigham, a former teacher training college near Dover which now teaches movement studies and the performing arts, should close and that Hertfordshire should merge with Hatfield Polytechnic.

The colleges, which have two weeks to make representations to the advisory body, are likely to fight the plan, which involves a 10 per cent cut in the public-sector colleges funded by local authorities.

Fleetwood is discussing a merger with Liverpool Polytechnic for its advanced work.

The most disappointed of the colleges is Nottigham, which fought off closure in the 1970s when its teacher training role was ended. It has 285 undergraduates studying for BA degrees in movement, drama and music.

Hertfordshire College of Higher Education, primarily a teacher-training college, had its intake increased last year by the Secretary of State for Education and Science. The college, which also runs a BA in combined studies, has a total of about 650 students.

Dr Derek Haslam, its principal, said that he thought the college was a victim of the advisory body's redistribution of resources away from London and the South-east. It was also near Hatfield Polytechnic.

Nottigham is likely also to be a victim of geography, although its proposed fate owes perhaps as much to the deliberate shift away from humanities towards the sciences.

A good year forecast for England's vineyards

By John Voors

Between 6,000 and 7,000 people are expected to converge on the picturesque village of Alfriston, East Sussex, for the ninth English Vineyard Wine Festival, which will be opened today by Lord Mountbatten of Bengal and will continue over the weekend.

The grapes are hanging heavy on the vines and growers are in excellent mood, anticipating a harvest as much as double last year's record.

It has been an almost ideal growing season, with no serious frosts in the spring and with the sun coming at just the right time to save the fruit from mildew and to ripen it through the long, hot weeks of July and August.

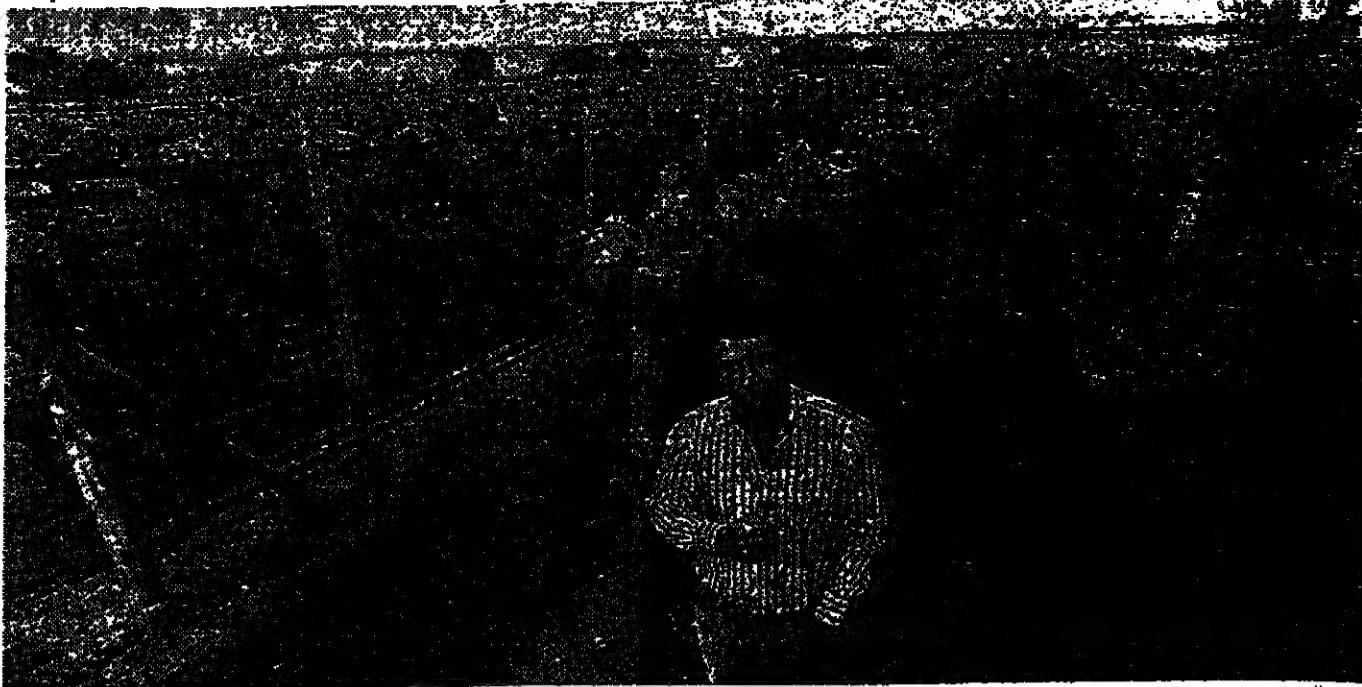
"Virtually 100 per cent of the fruit set almost everywhere," Mr. David Allcorn, marketing director of the English Wine Centre, says. "That is very rare in this country, where 70 per cent would normally be a good average."

He expects the grapes to be ready for picking by the end of this month, a good two weeks earlier than usual. "In some years we have been harvesting round Guy Fawkes Day," he says.

Britain has seen some fairly startling changes in agriculture in recent years, none more so than the revival of wine-making.

The vineyards that flourished in the Middle Ages were affected first by Henry II's marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine, which brought the vast producing areas of Bordeaux and the Loire into the English domain, and later by the dissolution of the monasteries which had done their best to maintain domestic production.

The last of the old vineyards, owned by Lord Bute at Castle



Grapes galore: Mr. David Allcorn, of the English Wine Centre, sampling a glass in the Berwick Glebe vineyard at Alfriston, East Sussex (Photograph: John Voors)

Cock in Wales, disappeared in 1914. It was not until 1951 that Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones planted a vineyard at Hambledon, Hampshire. His distinguished customers included Buckingham Palace and the House of Parliament.

In 1967 Mr. Jack Ward and half a dozen other growers formed the English Vineyard Association. Since then growth has been rapid and there are now about 230 commercial vineyards with a total area of 1,000 acres spread across the country, but

with the main concentrations in south-east England and East Anglia.

Production from the 37 vineyards could be as much as two million bottles this year. That represents only a fraction of the market. The British drink about twelve bottles a head a year, which is very little compared with countries such as France and Italy.

There are problems in increasing consumption: the normally damp English climate which encourages mildew; the risk of

late frosts; and the 79p a bottle duty on wine, which the European Commission says is discriminatory.

But the real difficulty lies in making the leap from what is still essentially a cottage industry to full production. The supermarket chains and other big retailers have, according to Mr. Allcorn, expressed keen interest in English wines, but growers at present are in no position to produce the quantities they would need.

Another hurdle to be overcome

is public disbelief that English wine is any good. It is not the same as the cheap "British" plonk made from imported juice, which elderly women sometimes buy to celebrate or to help them to sleep.

In fact, it is high quality, mostly sweetish, white, although dry whites and reds are on the increase. It sells for between £3.50 and £5 a bottle.

It is good enough to have established small export markets, including France and Italy.

Brittan condemns paedophile views

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr. Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, strongly condemned the views of the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) yesterday but said that he could not say more because of "a possibility of prosecution against its individual members."

Mr. Brittan said that a report was being considered urgently by the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Hetherington, and "I anticipate a decision will be reached shortly."

Commenting on PIE, Mr. Brittan said: "I find their views utterly repugnant, as do the vast majority of the people in this country. Society rightly expects the criminal law in this field to be strong and effective."

Mr. Brittan also announced action to deal with serious assaults on children. He has asked chief constables to look into how such attacks are investigated and to report to him on how the experience and expertise of forces throughout the country could be shared and maximum public cooperation secured.

"We all know, too, that even the swiftest and most effective action by the police is no substitute for sensible precautions against assaults in the first place," Mr. Brittan said.

The Home Office would be working with the police in intensifying efforts to get that vital message to children, parents, and responsible adults generally. In particular it was important to emphasize to parents the necessity of keeping a close eye on children, especially in the evenings, and to the public at large to notify the police of any suspicious activity, Mr. Brittan said.

He said that the whole country was outraged and appalled by the brutal attack on a young boy in Brighton. "Every possible effort must and will be made to bring

the perpetrators of this repulsive and loathsome act to justice."

He had studied the report of Mr. Roger Birch, the Sussex Chief Constable, and was satisfied that the police were doing their best to bring the case to court.

THE UNITED STATES has an equivalent of the PIE, called the North American Man-Boy-Love Association (Nambal), founded four years ago in Boston.

It seeks public understanding of relationships between men and boys and the repeal of the state laws that fix an age of consent for sexual relations. These laws vary from state to state.

Members of Nambal have taken part in a homosexual parade in New York, to the annoyance of homosexual groups, which believe that public display over paedophilia does harm to the progress made in getting homosexuality tolerated and accepted.

FRANCE: Indecent assault, which includes sexual relations with minors of less than 15 years old, is prohibited and subject on conviction to a prison sentence of between five and ten years and a fine of between 12,000 francs and 120,000 francs (£1,000-£10,000) if committed with violence, and to a prison sentence of between three and five years and a fine of 6,000 francs to 60,000 francs.

A pressure group called the "Groupe de Recherche pour une Enfance Différente" is concerned among other things with paedophilia. Its aim is to campaign for the "liberation" of children on various fronts, including sexuality.

BOYNS: Under West German law sexual activity with children under the age of 14 is forbidden, punishable by a term of imprisonment ranging from six months to 10 years. Anyone procuring a child for sexual activity or pornographic purposes is equally liable to imprisonment.

Museum of the stage is launched

By Michael Hennell

The controversial plan to create a theatre museum in London was formally approved yesterday by Lord Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, less than two months after he postponed it in response to the Chancellor's demand for spending cuts.

Contracts were exchanged by the Government and the Greater London Council for the leasing of the old Flower Market, in Covent Garden, as the site of the new museum, which should be open by 1986.

The future of the museum, which was first proposed in 1955 by Laurence Irving, grandson of Sir Henry Irving, was secured after two important moves by the wake of Lord Gowrie's recent postponement.

Officials from the GLC, which the site, dropped their insistence of the Government's commissioning funds this year to start the conversion. Then Lord Gowrie secured a private donation of £250,000 from an anonymous benefactor.

A spokesman for Lord Gowrie said: "Work should start on the conversion of the premises in a few months' time without any cost to public in the present financial year. The remainder of the cost, about £3.9m, will be met by the Office of Arts and Libraries."

The arts world has been pleading for decades with successive arts ministers for the conservation of the nation's theatre heritage.

Since 1974 more than a million appropriate objects, worth £23m, have been stored at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The most valuable is a backcloth painted by Picasso for the Diaghilev ballet, *Le Train Bleu*, in the 1920s.

Museum site: the old Flower Market in Covent Garden

SDP told de facto merger is illegal

By Our Political Correspondent

The leadership of the Social Democratic Party has received legal advice on the party constitution which it will use to block any attempt to bring about a backdoor merger with the Liberal Party.

In spite of Dr. David Owen's open hostility, some members have been working with Liberals to lay the foundation for a de facto merger by agreeing the principle of joint selection of candidates.

Mr. Matthew Oakshott, SDP Alliance candidate for Cambridge as the last election and an adviser to Mr. Roy Jenkins when he was Home Secretary, announced this week that Cambridge Social

Democrats and Liberals had agreed on joint selection for local, European and parliamentary elections.

The SDP's constitution stipulates that candidates be selected by members on the basis of one member one vote.

The procedure can be modified in exceptional circumstances, but the party has been given legal advice that exceptional circumstances could not be applied to a large number of constituencies.

Scottish Social Democrats will tell Dr. Owen as a meeting in Perth tomorrow that a formal merger with the Liberals would be premature (Our Glasgow Correspondent writes).

Medical protest

The *British Medical Journal* yesterday accused the Greater London Council of publishing a summary of its report on the medical effects of nuclear war without permission. Although the GLC said it had permission, the British Medical Association objected to the way the material was presented.

Ulster talks

The European Parliament inquiry into Ulster began in Dublin yesterday amid renewed protests from the Northern Ireland Office and the Official Ulster Unionist Party. Mr. Nils Haugerup, the Danish Liberal MEP, had talks with Dr. Garret FitzGerald, the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic.

Correction

The move within Labour CND which caused disquiet (*The Times* August 20) was an attempt to affiliate the organisation to the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory, not an attempt to donate money to *Socialist Action* as stated in our report.

Russian grandmaster wins London chess trophy

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

Four players shared first prize in the Lloyd's Bank Masters Tournament in London yesterday. The grandmasters Matanovic, Nunn, Razuvayev and the international master W. Watson each scored 7 points. But the trophy went to the Russian, Razuvayev, on a point count involving a sum of his opponents' scores.

In the ninth round Matanovic drew with Razuvayev in 18 moves, and Nunn drew with King in 24 moves, but Watson had to fight hard to win a long game in 50 moves against Kommers.

The ladies' international ended in a tie between Gisela Fischick (West Germany) and Conchita Cuyumert (Netherlands) with 4½ points each. Half a point behind was the English player, Theresa Needham, who very nearly achieved the grandmaster norm but lost in the last round to Iskov, the Danish master.

Final leading scorers: Matanovic, Nunn, Razuvayev, Watson 7; King 6½; Nunn 6; Watson 6; Kommers 5½; Fischick 4½; Needham 4; Cuyumert 4; Iskov 3½; King 3; Watson 3; Kommers 2½; Needham 2; Cuyumert 2; Iskov 1½; King 1; Watson 1; Kommers ½; Needham ½; Cuyumert ½; Iskov 0; King 0; Watson 0; Kommers 0; Needham 0; Cuyumert 0; Iskov 0.

Electricians may fight TUC ruling

By Paul Riddell, Labour Editor

Leaders of dissident Fleet Street electricians plan to go to court to assert their presumed legal right to join a union of their choice after losing their case before a TUC international union servants' committee.

The TUC has ruled that 800 electricians who have resigned from the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications, and Plumbing Union (EETPU) to join Soget (SEIU) must be returned to their original union.

Mr. Eric Hammond, general secretary-elect of the EETPU, said yesterday: "In the past we have let our own way too much. We will now rectify that, but not in a heavy way."

But Mr. Sean Geraghty, former secretary of the electricians' union press branch said last night: "We have clearly declared that under no circumstances is it conceivable that we will return to the EETPU. Our people have resigned and that is it."

"We are prepared to take the matter to court to prove that every citizen has the right in law to resign from an organization which does not serve his interests. We are not bonded servants."

The TUC disputes committee ruled that, after considering evidence from both unions Sept. '82, by accepting into membership members of the EETPU, despite objections from that union and by seeking recognition from the Newspaper Publishers' Association, had acted in breach of TUC disputes principles and procedures.

The committee said that Sept. '82 should exclude "forthright" members of the electricians' union who had been taken into membership, cease recruitment of electricians employed by national newspapers, and halt all claims for recognition.

The committee added: "It is our firm view that this is the best interest of the individuals concerned to rejoin the EETPU."

Left-wingers won a tactical victory yesterday on the key constitutional issue of reforming the TUC General Council, but it is likely to prove short-lived. By 23 votes to 19 the general council rejected the advice of Mr. Len Murray, general secretary, to oppose moves by the militants to change the council's political complexion.

They then voted by 21 to 19 to leave to delegates attending next week's TUC conference in Blackpool a decision on the controversial principle of automatic seats on the general council for all unions with more than 100,000 members.

TUC leaders also voted by 20 to 17 to support a composite motion that will permit the labour movement to talk to Mr. Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, about his forthcoming legislation on democracy within the unions.

Industry jockeying may restrict service

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The number of areas in which multi-channel cable television will be allowed in the next three years may be considerably restricted, the Government approves the plans of some of the present operators to expand.

Only 24 hours after 37 applications were submitted to the Home Office for the first batch of 12 multi-channel cable television franchises, two of the present cable operators, Rediffusion and Visionaire, have announced plans to offer enhanced services in most of their networks.

Rediffusion will offer extra services in 54 areas around the country from Aberdeen to Dover, and Visionaire will do the same in about fifty.

The announcement of the expansion and the appointment of EIU Information, a subsidiary of the Economist Intelligence Unit, as advisers to the Government on franchise applications, has caused immediate discontent in the cable industry.

The Government has stated its intention not to offer a franchise until July, 1986, in an area where the present operator already operates a service. Although these networks will only be able to carry between four and six channels and are at present used to carry BBC and independent

television broadcasts, they will give the present operators about two years in which to establish themselves in the particular area.

Another area of controversy is the appointment of EIU Information, a subsidiary of the Economist Newspaper group, which is 50 per cent owned by S. Pearson and through its subsidiary, Goldcrest Films and Television, intends to offer a service of first television screenings of feature films on cable.

Rediffusion Consumer Electronics Rediffusion (City of Leicester, Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, Borough of Guildford, City of Cardiff)

Leeds Cable Vision Leeds Cable Vision, E. J. Arnold & Son, Yorkshire TV Enterprises, British Telecommunications, MMG (Leeds)

London West End Cable Southwark and City Holdings, Im Film, Dorchester and Advertising (City of Westminster)

Manchester Cablevision Pilkington Bros, Virgin Records, Mrs J. F. Hill, Marchwood, Seaside Properties, Mr K. Starkey, Lord (Ringside) Mr J. Seddon, Lord Derby (South Liverpool)

Milton Keynes Cable Vision Select TV, British Telecom, Milton Keynes Development Corporation, Select GEC, MMG, Virgin Group (Milton Keynes and Newport Pagnell)

Plymouth Cablevision MMG, Select TV, CIT Research (Plymouth)

Premier Cable of Bedford Visionaire (London Borough of Westminster and London Borough of Croydon)

Sheffield Cablevision British Telecom, EMI, British Telecom (Sheffield)

Southwark Cablevision Local Oak, Waters Builders, Crystal Palace, Surrey Club Surrey (Surrey)

Swansea Cablevision Local Oak, Waters Builders, Crystal Palace, Surrey Club Surrey (Swansea)

Television Cablevision Local Oak, Waters Builders, Crystal Palace, Surrey Club Surrey (Television)

The following applications have been made for licences to provide and operate cable television. The names of the operator is followed by the name of the main shareholder of the main shareholder of the area to be covered in parentheses.

Aberdeen Cable Services ICPC, Aberdeen Trust, British Telecommunications, Rockall Scotia (Aberdeen)

Mr J. Sharman (Kensington and Westminster)

Basildon Cable Vision (Basildon)

Beaconsfield Cablevision Kleinwort Benson, Plessey, British Telecommunications, Technology, British Telecom (Beaconsfield)

Blackburn Cablevision Local Oak, Waters Builders, Crystal Palace, Surrey Club Surrey (Blackburn)

Blackpool Cablevision Local Oak, Waters Builders, Crystal Palace, Surrey Club Surrey (Blackpool)

Blackpool Cablevision Local Oak, Waters Builders, Crystal Palace, Surrey Club Surrey (Blackpool)

Blackpool Cablevision Local Oak, Waters Builders, Crystal Palace, Surrey Club Surrey (Blackpool)

Cuts in university places fall hardest on women and working class

Higher A level grades were demanded of young people applying to university last year than ever before. Women were particularly badly affected by the squeeze on higher education places, and fewer working class candidates got to university.

The increasing difficulty which students have in getting into university, shown in figures published yesterday by the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA), is a direct result of government spending cuts and the reduction in student numbers at a time when the 18-year-old age group is at its biggest.

The number of British students accepted last year was down by 3 per cent from 74,514 to 72,634 compared with 1981, and the number of overseas students accepted was down by 12 per cent from 5,827 to 5,118. Malaysians, in particular, were reluctant to pay the new 'full-cost fees' for overseas students. The number

applying last year fell to 2,168 from 2,690 the previous year.

Only 20.9 per cent of all those applying to university were from manual class compared with 21.7 per cent from the professional classes.

UCCA says: "Although, in total, a higher percentage of candidates from the higher social classes were accepted, this difference is due to their better performance at A level."

Women were affected worse last year, the report says. Fewer were admitted to university than the previous year, fewer were referred in the clearing house system, and many fewer who passed A levels even applied through the clearing house.

No reason is given for this, but it is believed that women are being affected more than men because they tend to study arts subjects, which have suffered more than the sciences from the

£11,000 equality grant

The Women's Staff Group at Aston University, Birmingham, has been awarded an £11,000 grant by the Equal Opportunities Commission directed at improving the female staff position and that of female students at the university.

It is the largest single grant in the commission's present rounds of awards. The grant will finance a one-year full-time appointment to coordinate what is called "a positive action programme".

Interviews for the post will be held shortly. Work will start on the programme in October.

It is believed to be the first such full-time appointment at a British university although some per-

sonnel work has been done on the same lines at Strathclyde University.

Miss Rowena Clayton, a lecturer and member of the staff group, said yesterday: "It is intended that the experience gained at Aston will enable the coordinator to draw up a code of practice for positive action, which can be applied to other universities."

The programme would involve investigating and acting on policies and practices in areas such as recruitment, promotion, pay, training and development, health services, and social provision.

New house search for missing wife

The police hunting Mrs Diane Jones, aged 33, the missing wife of Dr Robert Jones, yesterday began another search of their 350,000-home. A video camera, electronic sensing equipment, a power drill, and a crowbar were taken into the white-painted, 400-year-old beamed farmhouse.

Later today, police would be heard from behind closed curtains inside the house, Lees Farm, Coggeshall, Essex.

After two hours the police left the house, carrying cases and tools. The front door was locked by an estate agent who is advertising the house for sale.

Earlier the police had searched a wood known as the Dillery less than half a mile from the house. The wood, on land owned by the Essex Police Committee chairman, Mr Bill Dixon-Smith, contains a flooded sandpit known as "Dead Man's Pond" because two village people have drowned themselves in it.

Dr Jones, aged 48, who is on a month-long foreign holiday, is expected to leave Toronto today to fly to Sydney.

Originally, Dr Jones had told the police that he planned to visit Honolulu, but a close friend told yesterday that he had changed his travel plans and intended to fly direct to Australia.

Waiter dies in £1m fire

A man died, five others, including three firemen, were injured, and about £1m worth of damage was caused when fire destroyed a shopping arcade and some flats and badly damaged an hotel at Ilfracombe, North Devon.

The fire broke out early yesterday and Mr Thomas Murphy, a waiter, died while trying to help in the evacuation of about 200 people. Firemen fought the blaze for six hours and two injured firemen were kept in hospital.

Trawlers freed

Four Danish trawlers arrested on Wednesday night while fishing in Aberdeen were allowed to resume fishing yesterday after the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland decided that under EEC regulations they had not been acting illegally.

Police inquiry

The police are investigating allegations against five suspended detectives of the London Transport Police, a divisional spokesman said yesterday. He would give no details of the allegations.

Boathouse blaze

Damage estimated at £500,000 was caused by a fire at the 99 Club's boathouse in Cambridge on Wednesday night. At least 60 boats are believed to have been destroyed and the boathouse was severely damaged.

Burglary charge

Michael John Sutcliffe, aged 32, of Gilestead, Bingley, West Yorkshire, was accused of stealing jewelry worth £18 when he appeared yesterday before magistrates at Bingley. He was remanded on bail for one week.

Firemen hurt

Three firemen were slightly injured yesterday when their engine crashed on the way to a grain silo fire in Berwickshire.

Banks fight £20m losses New card to cut cheque fraud

A new type of cheque guarantee card, intended to reduce fraud, could be introduced early next year.

Frankly, many of them highly organized, are costing the clearing banks an average of about £1 a year each of the 20 million cards on issue. But negotiations between the banks on a new card have dragged on for nearly two years while the banks have

lost £20m. The new card is likely to have a magnetic strip, a watermark-style printing like that on bank notes, which would make it much more difficult for criminals to remove

it would be expensive and troublesome for the banks and there are doubts whether it would be effective and whether customers would tolerate it.

The banks are completing a study of about six cards produced by different manufacturers, including Trapiex, a subsidiary of the bank note printers McCrone, and Guardian Security, produces a card for the London branch of the United Bank of Kuwait.

The banks are still studying the possibility of sealing signatures into the cards by covering them with plastic or something like the cards with laser technology. However, banking sources said it was less likely that that would be introduced immediately.

Putting customers' photographs on cards has also been abandoned for the moment because of disagreement among the big banks, with National Westminster the main opponent.

Football club will aid arrested fans

Birmingham City Football Club, which had 236 of its supporters arrested at Euston Station last Saturday on the opening day of the season before the match with West Ham United, said yesterday that it would offer them legal advice when all the facts were known.

Those arrested by what was said to be a large number of Metropolitan Police officers waiting at the station will appear at various courts this month, and next month, charged with public order offences.

The club appealed yesterday to all those who were arrested and everyone else who was on the train from Birmingham which arrived at Euston at 12.40 pm to write with their version of what happened.

Mr Keith Coombs, chairman of the club, said that they had received many telephone calls of complaint from parents of young

Warning on timber houses

Construction of timber-frame houses should be limited and a government inquiry set up to investigate possible faults in the new building method, according to a report published yesterday by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. It says that more than one in five new homes in Britain are built by the timber-frame method and the figure is expected to double in 18 months.

Yet there were "serious doubts" about how long timber-frame buildings would last. A householder simply putting up a picture could puncture the timber frame's vapour barrier and put the house at risk, the report says.

The association, which represents local authorities in London, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Tyne and Wear, West and South Yorkshire, and the West Midlands, says that although not all the defects reported by its members are serious, "it is known that extensive remedial works will be necessary in some cases."

Surveys of member authorities have shown that housing defects are most common in non-traditional, industrialized, and system-built homes. Timber-frame, the latest building "system", should therefore be regarded with caution, the report says.

Timber-frame housing is quicker to build and relies less on skilled labour, but most of the advantages appear to benefit the builder or developer and not the consumer, the report says.

It calls for:

- Housebuilders to limit the number of timber-frame dwellings to 25 per cent of those constructed.
- A continuing Government-sponsored evaluation of timber-frame building methods.
- Longer guarantees for home owners.
- Advertising which states when a timber-frame has been used.
- Improvements in construction site supervision and tighter building regulations.

First class days out may return

British Rail is expected to reinstate first-class day returns - which it abolished in May - before the end of the year.

No decision has been reached, but British Rail spokesmen said yesterday that there was a growing realization that withdrawal of the tickets was a mistake, causing not only loss of revenue, but also widespread resentment among passengers.

Instead of travelling with a full-price first-class ticket, usually about double the price of a day return - British Rail's 700,000 customers using the tickets each year decided either to go by car or travel second class.

British Rail said: "We have had a very big public response to this issue, and there is a clear break between how the businessmen have reacted, by using his car, and the leisure traveller, who has gone down market."

Mr Les Dumbleton, secretary of the rail users' watchdog body, said yesterday: "People who have written to us are very aggrieved about this; but many more did not bother to complain and simply voted with their feet."

Typical examples of day returns compared with normal first-class returns before May were: London to Brighton £8.80 (£16); London to Colchester £8.80 (£16); London to Oxford £10 (£17.50).

More than half the business, worth nearly £6m a year to British Rail, was with Southern Region which first took the view that by withdrawing the tickets it could make more money.

But the marketing men at British Rail headquarters were so involved in simplifying the fare structure that they thought it would be an anomaly to withdraw the ticket in just one region so they abolished it altogether. Now it seems they are regretting it.

Policeman accused of murder

John Robinson, aged 29, an Ulster policeman, was remanded in custody yesterday when he appeared at a special court in Armagh charged with the murder of a leading member of the Irish National Liberation Army on December 12 last year.

Constable Robinson was flanked in the dock by two other policemen and a grant dog at the three-minute hearing. A detective superintendent told the magistrate that he believed he could connect Mr Robinson with the charge of murdering Mr Seamus Grew, aged 31.

Mr Grew was one of two men shot dead in a Catholic housing estate on the outskirts of Armagh after a car chase. The chase started when their car burst through a Royal Ulster Constabulary checkpoint after crossing the border from the Irish Republic.

No mention was made at yesterday's hearing of the man who was shot with him, Roderick Martin Carroll, aged 22. Soon after they were killed the INLA described them as leading members and they were given parliamentary funerals.

Mr Grew had served a seven-year prison sentence for the attempted murder of a policeman while Mr Carroll had been charged with the attempted murder of an Ulster Defence Regiment soldier but the case was dropped by the Crown when a key witness retracted his evidence.

Constable Robinson is a married man. For security reasons his address was given in court yesterday as RUC headquarters, Belfast. He will appear at a court in the city next Friday.

Four "loyalist" remand prisoners in C Wing at Crumlin Road prison in Belfast smashed furniture, fittings and windows in their combined dining room and recreation hall yesterday and set on fire a library in the same room. Damage was described as considerable.

Loyalist remand prisoners in the hall had threatened on Wednesday to protest against the continuing ban on visits by friends and relatives to the three sides to Northern Ireland where such visits are banned. The visits have been stopped because of an overtime ban by prison officers.

Microlight race to Paris threatened by weather

The start of today's London to Paris microlight air race from Biggin Hill airfield depends on which way a low pressure belt over the Irish Sea swings.

The 90 small aircraft will either take off powered by their small two-stroke engines or they will be towed into the air by a tugboat and leave by road and ferry for France.

Pilots began to assemble their aircraft yesterday with one eye on the weather. There are only four British entries, two of them manufacturer-sponsored machines.

Some British pilots have withdrawn because of the cost of entering and taking part. Mr Robert Culvert, of Preston, a leading British microlight pilot, said he had decided not to take part when he discovered that taking part would cost him more than £1,000.

Most of the pilots are French and they are heavily sponsored by the makers of cars, batteries, beverage companies, and banks. Other entrants are from America, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland. Several French pilots were however flying British-made aircraft.

The first leg of the race is planned from Biggin Hill to Lympne airfield, near Ashford, where the pilots don wet suits and lifejackets for the channel crossing to Cap Gris Nez, where they circle the lighthouse as a checkpoint before finishing the first day at Le Touquet, south of Boulogne.

Tomorrow the course is planned across country to a private airfield north of Paris where competitions will be held. On Sunday, the competitors cross the rooftops of the city to land in the Bois de Boulogne.

Coroner delays funeral of Aldermaston scientist

The funeral of a scientist who was employed at the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Research Establishment has been postponed by the local coroner with an order for a post-mortem examination of the body.

On the afternoon before the coronation was due Mr Charles Hoile, the West Berkshire coroner, telephoned Mrs Helen Davey, widow of the scientist, Mr Norman Davey, to say that the funeral could not go ahead until he was satisfied about the cause of death.

A doctor signed a certificate after the death of Mr Davey, aged 61, in Newbury District Hospital on August 15, saying that he had died of natural causes, namely stomach cancer.

A spokesman for Mr Hoile, said yesterday: the post-mortem examination had been carried out and samples sent off for analysis.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said that Mr Davey, of Newbury, Berkshire, had worked as a scientist officer in radiochemical analysis, but could not say whether he had ever been contaminated by radioactive material. The coroner expected to make an announcement soon, he said.

In 1973 the Pockin inquiry was held after a leak of deadly radioactive plutonium dust, which led to the closure of part of the Aldermaston base.

Unions representing tin families of more than 70 Aldermaston workers later instigated court action seeking compensation, claiming that there had been a cover-up and that many staff had been contaminated. Some have since died of cancer.

Mr Davey became ill last November and had two operations before his death.

Barbados brothers to stay in Britain

A mother who arrived in Britain yesterday to help the campaign to stop the deportation of her two sons stayed from an aircraft at Heathrow airport, London, to be told that the Home Office had just given them the right to settle in Britain.

Mr Geoffrey Ramsey, aged 23, and his brother David, were to be deported because neither of them nor their grandparents were born in Britain. As they waited at Heathrow for their mother, Mrs Penelope Ramsey, to arrive from her home in Barbados to help in their final appeal to the Home Office next week, a member of a television crew broke the good news.

Mrs Ramsey told *The Times* yesterday: "I was absolutely overwhelmed with such fabulous news. The flight had overshadowed everything."

Mr Geoffrey Ramsey said: "We are greatly relieved. We have lived with such uncertainty that we have not been able to plan our future, but now at last we can get on with our lives."

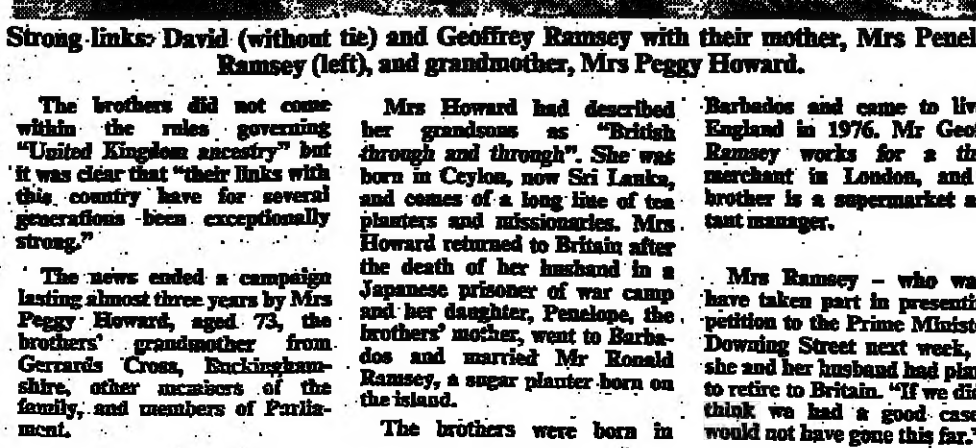
The news was given by Mr David Waddington, Minister of State at the Home Office, who said: "The Home Secretary and I have decided that it would be right to not outside the rules and grant the Ramsey brothers the right of settlement in this country."

The brothers did not come within the rules governing "United Kingdom ancestry" but it was clear that "their links with this country have for several generations been exceptionally strong."

The news ended a campaign lasting almost three years by Mrs Peggy Howard, aged 73, the brothers' grandmother, from Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, other members of the family, and members of Parliament.

Mrs Howard had described her grandsons as "British through and through". She was born in Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, and comes of a long line of tea planters and missionaries. Mrs Howard returned to Britain after the death of her husband in a Japanese prisoner of war camp and her daughter, Penelope, the brothers' mother, went to Barbados and married Mr Ronald Ramsey, a sugar planter born on the island.

The brothers were born in



Strong links: David (without tie) and Geoffrey Ramsey with their mother, Mrs Penelope Ramsey (left), and grandmother, Mrs Peggy Howard.

TV-am to replace Roland Rat with 'Popeye' cartoons

The commercial breakfast television station TV-am is to drop the popular puppet character Roland Rat at the end of the summer school holidays and replace him with Popeye cartoons.

Roland Rat, whose performances are thought to have played a large part in TV-am's recently improved ratings, is to feature only in extended shows during subsequent holidays.

Mr Greg Dyke, the editor-in-chief of TV-am, yesterday agreed that the station could lose some of its audience when the school holidays ended but denied suggestions that the company was breaking the terms of its franchise with its new, popular broadcasting style.

A leading article in *The Times* was singled out for criticism by Mr Dyke, who said that although he had not read TV-am's franchise application before joining the station, the company was doing nothing that was not in keeping with its submission to the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

He was the subject of a third leader in *The Times* accusing me of being too populist", he told a session on breakfast television at the Edinburgh International Television Festival.

"I find it difficult coming from *The Times*, a paper kept alive by the *Sun* and the *News of the World*. I don't think they have

Warning on timber houses

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- Improvements in construction site supervision and tighter building regulations.

Warning on timber houses

Construction of timber-frame houses should be limited and a government inquiry set up to investigate possible faults in the new building method, according to a report published yesterday by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. It says that more than one in five new homes in Britain are built by the timber-frame method and the figure is expected to double in 18 months.

Yet there were "serious doubts" about how long timber-frame buildings would last. A householder simply putting up a picture could puncture the timber frame's vapour barrier and put the house at risk, the report says.

The association, which represents local authorities in London, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Tyne and Wear, West and South Yorkshire, and the West Midlands, says that although not all the defects reported by its members are serious, "it is known that extensive remedial works will be necessary in some cases."

Surveys of member authorities have shown that housing defects are most common in non-traditional, industrialized, and system-built homes. Timber-frame, the latest building "system", should therefore be regarded with caution, the report says.

Timber-frame housing is quicker to build and relies less on skilled labour, but most of the advantages appear to benefit the builder or developer and not the consumer, the report says.

It calls for:

- Housebuilders to limit the number of timber-frame dwellings to 25 per cent of those constructed.
- A continuing Government-sponsored evaluation of timber-frame building methods.
- Longer guarantees for home owners.
- Advertising which states when a timber-frame has been used.
- Improvements in construction site supervision and tighter building regulations.

Government asks victims of Aids not to give blood

The Department of Health and Social Security is appealing to people who believe they are suffering from, or may be at risk from, the mysterious disease known as Aids not to give blood to the transfusion service.

The request is made in a leaflet for distribution to blood donation centres. It comes after concerns about incidents in the United States in which contaminated blood products have been attributed to donors suffering from Aids (Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome).

Those most at risk from Aids are homosexual men with more than one partner, drug addicts who inject themselves, and sexual contacts of people suffering from the disease.

"The best measure which can be taken is to ask people who think they have Aids, or may be at risk from it, to refrain from giving blood."

Announcing publication of the leaflet, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said: "It has been suggested that Aids may be transmitted in blood and blood products. There is no conclusive proof that this is so."

"Nevertheless I can appreciate the concern that this suggestion may cause. We must continue to minimize any possible risk of transmission of the disease by blood donation, but it is not possible to test a person's blood for the presence of Aids."

Council burns 2,400 pirate tapes

Pirated video tapes valued at more than £50,000 were burnt yesterday at Merseyside County Council's incinerator at Bidston. The 2,400 tapes had been seized in raids on video libraries.

Among the tapes were near perfect copies of *E.T.* and *Gandhi*, neither of which are legally available on video. There were also hundreds of other pirated films and many video "nasties".

Presiding over the incineration was the chairman of Merseyside's Public Protection Committee, Mr John Gallagher, who is calling for a licensing system for video libraries.

Mr Gallagher added that many tapes were being re-recorded to make them into video "nasties".

Warwickshire County Council trading standards officers have seized 1,200 tapes, believed to be pirated, from four houses on the Sydenham Estate, Leamington Spa.

New car by courtesy of the police

A Norfolk family whose new mini-metro car was wrecked when the police commandeered it for a road block will today be given the keys to a new car paid for by the police.

The family were still sitting in their three-month-old car when one being chased at high speed by the police ran into the roadblock at Worsley, Norfolk, last month.

Mr Gordon Phillips, a teacher, of Fincham, Norfolk, his wife Josephine, and children, Joshua and Holly, escaped from the wreckage unhurt, but their car was a write off.

Mr John Hall the Norfolk assistant chief constable who will hand over the keys to the new car, said yesterday: "An inquiry is still going on into the incident to see if there are any lessons to be learnt."

"We were determined from the outset that Mr Phillips would not lose in any way. We hired a car for him until we could find an identical new one."

London concern at Harare trial

Foreign Office summons Zimbabwe envoy over Air Force arrests

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Mubvumba Samuel Kajese, Zimbabwe's acting High Commissioner in London, was summoned to the Foreign Office last night amid growing international concern over the fate of six Zimbabwe Air Force officers detained on Wednesday within minutes of their arrival by a Harare court on sabotage charges.

Meanwhile, Mr Martin Evans, Britain's High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, was delivering a message from Mrs Margaret Thatcher to Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, appealing for clarification of his government's action.

Mrs Thatcher and her ministers are under pressure from their backbenches to express Britain's disapproval in the strongest possible terms, if necessary by cutting aid to the Zimbabwe, which is expected to total nearly £19m this year.

But Whitehall's first concern is to find out whether the men are likely to remain in jail indefinitely or whether the arrests were an instant reaction which will soon be corrected.

The acting High Commissioner was seen at the Foreign Office by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State, who expressed Britain's "strong feelings" on the matter. The Government was "very disturbed", Mr Rifkind said on Radio 4's *World at One*.

The four officers with dual British-Zimbabwean nationality would be welcome in Britain if they were allowed to leave Harare and the Government was also ready to help the other two with Zimbabwean nationality, he said.

Mr Mugabe is due to visit the US next week and could find the White House taking a similar line on human rights. The US embassy in London last night estimated aid to Zimbabwe over the 1981-85 period at \$225m (£150m). It is not known whether he will stop in London for talks on the issue.

One way Britain could make its feelings known would be to cut the military training team in Zimbabwe, which is already being reduced from 100 to between 50

and 60 officers and NCOs as they near the end of their first training phase.

● **HARARE:** Back in Chikurubi maximum-security prison yesterday after their acquittal, the six officers were said by their lawyers to be in good spirits and confident they will be released soon (Stephen Taylor writes).

There was a cautious optimism that the airman's year-long ordeal may be nearing an end. It is believed by some that the detention orders served on the officers on Wednesday are a temporary measure which does not have the endorsement of Mr Mugabe.

Others, however, said the situation remained confused, and indicated that conflicting signals were coming from the Government. A Cabinet meeting earlier in the day was said to have been routine.

The officers' wives attended a moving service of thanksgiving in the evening of the acquittals. The charges carried the death penalty. Throughout the affair military chaplains have provided spiritual encouragement to the families.

Lieutenant-Colonel Val Rajah, the Army Chaplain-General, said he had visited the officers earlier in the day and they had said they were concerned for other detainees who did not have the world's attention on them.

If by spending a few more days in prison the attention helped other detainees, they would not feel the time badly spent, he added.

In another development, Mr Ian Smith's Republican Front party was proposing to raise the re-detentions in an adjournment debate in the House of Assembly last night.

In Parliament on Wednesday Dr Herbert Uthwath, the Minister of Home Affairs, who signed the new detention orders, said that a man held for allegedly insulting Zimbabwe's leaders had been released.

Asked by an MP why Mr Mugabe had been detained, he said: "There will be no problem."

But if there was a problem, if regular troops could not control the Druse towns and villages when the Israelis leave, would that not be the end of the Lebanese Army?

The senior of the three men started out of the windows of the Defence Ministry office at the distant city of Beirut below. "It will be the end of the Government," he said firmly. "Not the Army."

He had clearly been thinking along these lines before and there are few American diplomats in Beirut who would now disagree. Should President Gemayel's government collapse, the Army just could turn out to be the one institution capable of saving Lebanon from anarchy.

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Protest said yesterday that the new law was stern, humane and just, and was necessary because of the incessant expansion of road networks. "They should improve the roads, not put up the fines", grumbled one motorist.

Edward Moll had been detained for eight months. Dr Ushewokunze said: "I do not have to give a catalogue of what happened. He was given his due time in the cooler and he is out, so I do not see any need for further explanations."

A seventh airman arrested two days after the sabotage is still in detention, although the Attorney-General's office declined to prosecute him for lack of evidence.

Air Lieutenant Nigel Lewis-Walker, also a dual British-Zimbabwe national, is being held on a detention order which alleges that he cut a hole in the Thornhill security fence through which the saboteurs gained entry.

● **DUBLIN:** The official visit to Ireland next week of Mr Mugabe and a team of Cabinet ministers could prove acutely embarrassing for the African delegation (Our Correspondent writes).

Two of the six officers acquired on Wednesday hold Irish passports. They are Wing Commanders Peter Briscoe and John Cox.

A spokesman for the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin said yesterday: "We are investigating what steps we can take on behalf of the Irish passport holders."

The Zimbabwe delegation visit was officially confirmed yesterday by the Dublin Government. Mr Mugabe is due to meet Dr Carr, the Prime Minister, and Mr Peter Barry, the Foreign Minister, during the two-day visit.

Whites' future, page 8
Leading article and letter, page 9

● **Open house**
Johannesburg (AFP) - The town council of the white residential Johannesburg suburb of Randburg has agreed to open its swimming pools, public toilets, transport, creches and nursery schools to all races.

French send in a carrier
Paris-The French aircraft carrier, Foch, was due to leave Toulon yesterday for Beirut to back up the 2,000 French troops in the multinational force, according to unconfirmed reports here. (Diana Geddes writes).

The Foch was expected to be accompanied by the Montcalm and the replenishment tanker La Meuse. They are to join the destroyer Guérande and the depot ship Ramée, which have been on station outside Beirut for the past few weeks.

Meanwhile, a senior adviser to President Mitterrand arrived in Beirut yesterday for talks with Lebanese officials after the deaths of the four French legionnaires and one French security guard this week. (AP reports). Beirut radio said that M François de Grossouvre, the President's Chief of Staff, was ushered immediately into a meeting with President Gemayel.

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Under the Act, the President must consult Congress before sending troops equipped for combat. Congress can ask for the troops to be recalled within 60 to

90 days if they face hostilities or the threat of hostilities.

In spite of the death earlier this week of two Marines, Mr Percy said he was confident Congress would support the continued presence of the 1,200-man Marine contingent in Beirut where it forms part of the four-nation peace-keeping force. "If we pull out, it might just turn into utter turmoil", he said.

Senator Robert Byrd (Democrat, West Virginia), the Senate minority leader, also on President Reagan to involve Congress in the difficult and crucial decision that must be made. American forces are clearly involved in hostilities within the meaning of the War Powers Act.

Others who have called for Congressional action under the Act include Senator John Glenn (Democrat, Ohio) and Senator Charles Mathias (Republican, Maryland).

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Back on the streets: Riot police in Wroclaw facing demonstrators in one of the pro-Solidarity protests that erupted in Polish cities

Polish press tries to play down Solidarity riots

From Roger Boyes

Some yards away from the scene of Wednesday's clashes between Solidarity supporters and the batons of the militia, the Polish authorities last night held an anti-rally in the form of a light-and-sound show in Warsaw's Castle Square.

Nearly police have removed a floral cross - the focus of Solidarity demonstrations - from the shelter of St Anna's Church and a militia stands guard near some student hostels houses more police-

men smoking, playing cards and reading comics.

Everything was, is and will be normal, the Polish press declared yesterday in their analysis of Solidarity demonstrations which broke out in Nowa Huta, Wroclaw, Gdansk, Warsaw, Czestochowa and Lublin.

Pictures received from Nowa Huta, the steel producing centre near Cracow, show demonstrators - perhaps 3,000 of them - ripping up pavements and passing slabs along a human chain to form a barricade against the militia tear gas and water cannon brigades. The fighting

in Nowa Huta, much of it near the new church in the town centre, was evidently bloody with some injuries also among the policemen.

The Polish press seemed torn yesterday between describing these incidents and deploring the violence and claiming, again and again that August 31 was absolutely normal, peaceful, calm.

A dispatch entitled: "Good work in Poland" from the news agency PAP, said: "The last day of August was marked by hard work in the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk where the construction of 11 ships continued."

The report did not mention that after the good work the workers demonstrated with some conviction their support for the Gdansk agreement which three years ago anchored the right to have free and independent trade unions.

Most commentaries describe Wednesday's demonstrations as probably the last attempt of the Solidarity underground to organize demonstrations. That remains to be seen. In the meantime the Government is fostering what might be termed the propaganda of ordinariness.

● **'Stern' publishers seek independent investigation**
Hamburg (Reuters) - The publisher of the West German news magazine *Stern* called for an independent investigation into how it was duped into publishing the forged "Hitler diaries". He said an internal inquiry which has just been completed was not objective.

But Herr Henri Nannen's call yesterday for a new inquiry met immediate opposition from his own managing board and editorial staff.

He told a press conference here that an inquiry by members of the editorial staff had produced contradictory accusations against some staff members but had failed to furnish proof.

He said a new investigating commission would be set up, independent of the editorial and publishing staffs and with at least two judicial officials on it. He said the first report, while relatively favourable to him, should not be published.

The managing board of Gruner and Jahr, *Stern's* publishing company, issued a statement immediately afterwards saying

that it would probably not comply with Herr Nannen's request, and that it still believed the staff should decide in what form the present report could be published.

A spokesman for the *Stern* editorial staff told journalists that Herr Nannen, by giving a press conference yesterday had broken an agreement between the *Stern* publishers and journalists not to discuss the report in public until agreement had been reached on how to handle it.

She said the report, which journalists' representatives have

not yet seen, would be presented to a full meeting of journalists on September 9 along with comments from staff members implicated in it.

The internal inquiry was separate from an investigation being conducted by the Hamburg state prosecutor into alleged fraud by the former *Stern* journalist, Herr Gerd Heidemann, and the Nazi memorabilia dealer, Herr Konrad Kujau, who supplied the diaries to *Stern*.

Both men have been in custody since May awaiting trial.

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The space agency hopes to use the Canadian-manufactured arm to deploy and retrieve satellites weighing as much as 65,000lb, and later to build a space station.

● **Shuttle arm proves its muscle**
Cape Canaveral (AFP) - Astronauts of the space shuttle Challenger tested the spacecraft's 50-ft robot arm yesterday, lifting a 7,640lb package designed to simulate satellites the shuttle is to retrieve and deploy in the future.

"It works like a champ," the mission specialist Dale Gardner told mission control in Houston, after lifting the aluminium and lead object.

The space agency hopes to use the Canadian-manufactured arm to deploy and retrieve satellites weighing as much as 65,000lb, and later to build a space station.

● **Soviet soldier refused asylum**
Zirndorf, West Germany (Reuters) - A Soviet soldier interned in Switzerland after being captured by Afghan guerrillas has been refused political asylum in West Germany, a West German spokesman said yesterday.

The Federal Asylum Office rejected Mr Yuri Ivanovich Vashchenko's request, saying he had already found protection from political persecution in Switzerland, where he escaped from internment.

● **Uruguay ban**
Montevideo, (Reuters) - Uruguay's military rulers have banned the Peace and Justice Service, the only human rights group in the country. The organization is headed by the Argentine Nobel Peace Prize winner Senator Adolfo Pérez Esquivel.

● **Invited to view**
Two Spanish colonels have been invited by the Soviet Union to attend next week's military manoeuvres near the Caspian Sea, according to Defence Ministry sources. Spain is a member of Nato's political organization but not integrated into the defence system.

● **Malagasy poll**
Antananarivo (AFP) - President Ratsiraka's Arena Party has maintained its absolute control of the Malagasy national assembly in last Sunday's elections, taking a probable 118 of the 137 seats contested.

● **Cairo swoop**
Cairo (Reuters) - Egyptian police have arrested 19 members of an armed communist underground organization which they say planned to overthrow the Government.

● **Oil inferno**
Salvador, Brazil (AFP) - Three railway tanker wagons carrying 30,000 gallons of oil blew up after a train derailed, killing 17 people and injuring 200 others, 80 of them seriously.

● **Ship surrender**
Limassol (AP) - Twelve armed men who seized a Romanian cargo ship at Tripoli, Lebanon, and forced it to sail to Cyprus, surrendered yesterday, a police spokesman said.

● **Howe's trip**
Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will visit Hungary from September 12 to 14 at the invitation of Hungary's Foreign Minister.

● **Husain in China**
Peking (AP) - King Hussein of Jordan arrived here for an official 10-day visit, the second within the past year.

● **Bare threat**
Tel Aviv (AP) - A court has ordered a 16-year-old girl to stop walking around the house naked. Her 80-year-old stepfather claims she is trying to cause him a heart attack so that she can inherit his fortune.

Lean time for Soviet roadhogs

From Richard Owen Moscow

After an initial flurry of on-the-spot fines and police severity Moscow motorists swiftly reverted to their bad old ways yesterday despite stiff new penalties for traffic offences.

Moscow traffic police in their distinctive red and blue peaked caps were out in force from dawn imposing fines of up to 50 roubles (\$44) for speeding and dangerous driving.

This includes unauthorized overtaking (left hand lanes are reserved for government officials, most of them speeding) and illegal turns, but not failure to stop at a pedestrian crossing, since in Moscow pedestrians stop to allow cars to pass rather than the other way round.

Pedestrians also faced fines of up to 30 roubles for endangering traffic, although most of the police victims yesterday seemed to be the familiar Moscow drunks.

Soviet traffic rules are already severe, and even include penalties for driving a dirty car. Yesterday, however, police were bused into Moscow to enforce the rules more stringently than usual. As a result, there were fewer private cars in some districts, and fewer motorists moonlighting as unofficial taxi drivers.

A drive along some of Moscow's busiest roads showed that most motorists were still changing lanes recklessly, with bemused "out of towners" from the countryside the worst offenders.

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Protest said yesterday that the new law was stern, humane and just, and was necessary because of the incessant expansion of road networks. "They should improve the roads, not put up the fines", grumbled one motorist.

S Africa cuts reform debate

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

In half an hour yesterday 12 clauses of the South African Government's constitutional Reform Bill were approved by Parliament, more than one third as many as have been passed in two weeks of bitter debate.

The guillotine came down firmly late on Wednesday night on further debate in the committee stage of the measure under which three houses of parliament will be elected for whites, mixed race Coloureds and Indians, but which ensures white political domination.

They were debating clause 34 of the bill when time for the Government's reply to the opposition was called. The Government's reply was a two-hour speech which opposes

New-look force to be reckoned with Army may make or break Lebanon

From Robert Fisk Beirut

The three Lebanese Army intelligence officers wanted to show their self-confidence. "We can control Beirut and we can go into the Chouf mountains," the youngest said. "There will be no problem."

But if there was a problem, if regular troops could not control the Druse towns and villages when the Israelis leave, would that not be the end of the Lebanese Army?

The senior of the three men started out of the windows of the Defence Ministry office at the distant city of Beirut below. "It will be the end of the Government," he said firmly. "Not the Army."

He had clearly been thinking along these lines before and there are few American diplomats in Beirut who would now disagree. Should President Gemayel's government collapse, the Army just could turn out to be the one institution capable of saving Lebanon from anarchy.

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their faces covered in sweat and grime, firing from the hip as they ran from doorway to doorway down narrow streets.

Until now, it has been difficult to take them seriously. Lebanese soldiers often checked themselves out of the barracks for three-month holidays, rarely bothered to defend their posts under fire and never cared to take on the street gangs of Beirut.

Their equipment was poorly maintained, and their artillery frequently turned out to be incapable of firing. Officers developed a disturbing habit of smoking cigarettes in holders and wearing pointed boots with built-up heels.

The new army is very much an American creation. Its 75 new American-built M48 and M60 tanks, the 155 mm artillery pieces and armoured vehicles, the hundreds of new lorries and thousands of new Marine-style uniforms are as much a product of US foreign policy as they are of Lebanese decision-making.

The Lebanese Government paid cash for the equipment, but it is Washington's desire to see a strong administration in Beirut that has produced the phenomenon.

Colonel Tom Pintel, head of the American Office of Military Cooperation in Lebanon, whose job is to train the new army, has

been outspoken in his praise of both officers and men.

Under the Lebanese national covenant, the army commander - like the President - must be a Christian Maronite, even though the Maronites are no longer a majority. Most of the officer class are Christian.

Yet the majority of the lower ranks are Shia Muslims. Armies, after all, tend to recruit among the poor. So this week, the Shia Muslim soldiers of the Lebanese Army found themselves fighting the Shia Muslim militias.

As long as the Army holds together, President Amin Gemayel's authority still appears credible. But the Syrians are doing their best to brand the Army as a tool of the Christian Phalange, to represent them as an alien force.

Ironically, the Americans believe - and have said so publicly - that the Syrians are cooperating in the rebuilding of the Army more than the Israelis, who refuse to permit the Sidon battalion to carry arms.

But the threat of disintegration is none the less a real one. If the Army should break apart once more, what would happen to the vast number of weapons which the Americans have so enthusiastically provided?

If it does not, how long will it be before the Army in Lebanon feels its own power and attempts to use it on the Government?

They also strung a banner with the peace movement's slogan "Swords into ploughshares" on the wire near the main gate.

The peace movement believes Pershing 1 missiles are due to be

West German protesters blockade American base

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

At dawn, exactly 44 years after the German invasion of Poland that started the Second World War, anti-nuclear demonstrators began a blockade of the American military depot at Mudlangen.

At the same time, 50 members of the unofficial East German peace movement who began vigils outside the Soviet and American embassies in East Berlin were removed by police, and several were arrested.

The West German peace movement's protest marked the start of a series of blockades, marches and rallies against the stationing of Nato nuclear missiles in West Germany planned for the autumn.

About 2,500 people, including Herr Heinrich Böll, the Nobel Prize-winning author, Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the left-wing Social Democratic Mayor of Saarbrücken, and Herr Erhard Eppler, a former Mayor of West Berlin, took part in a silent march round the American base.

Some 400 people then sat down in the entrance road. They will be immediately replaced as and when they are removed by police in an attempt to keep up the blockade for three days.

No incidents had been reported by yesterday. The police, who were out in force, made no move to engage the demonstrators, who sang songs and adorned the barbed wire surrounding the base with wild flowers.

They also strung a banner with the peace movement's slogan "Swords into ploughshares" on the wire near the main gate.

The peace movement believes Pershing 1 missiles are due to be

moved from the base in the next few days, but an American spokesman said traffic was normal and no rockets had been redeployed.

In East Berlin, the demonstrators, holding lighted candles, had planned a vigil lasting half-an-hour, but they were quickly surrounded by police. Four people, including an Evangelical clergyman, were arrested.

Security forces photographed those taking part, who were unable to hand in letters to the Soviet and American embassies.

Spectrum, page 6

On hand: Heinrich Böll outside the US base

● **'Impotence' on Chad condemned**
From Zdzislaw Pysarski New York

Sir John Thompson, Britain's representative to the United Nations, has berated the Security Council for its inactivity on the war in Chad. In terms less than diplomatic he said that the sterile debate throughout the conflict had unsuccessfully veiled the council's "handwringing impotence."

His statement was unusual for its candour: in a body whose members direct their criticism at everything but the Council which is referred to in reverent terms. But his candour reflected a commonly held feeling of frustration.

Four weeks had passed since the present debate was initiated at the request of Chad, and the dimensions of the conflict had become more serious, said Sir John. Despite prolonged efforts by some members of the Council action, no measure was in sight.

Chad, a poor defenceless country with its north overrun by the advance of Chad - the country's economic heartland - is causing serious concern to the Government of President Hissène Habré (AP reports).

Falklands setback for Britain

From Our Correspondent New York

Argentina once again won

Mexico has pulled out of its economic nosedive, President says

From Christopher Thomas, Mexico City

President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico said yesterday that the Mexican economy was "no longer in a nosedive" just a year after collapse of the currency threatened to lead Central America into a series of catastrophic defaults.

"But the crisis is still with us," he told Congress in his first State of the Nation address, nine months after taking office. Companies still had difficulties, inflation persisted, serving the nation's debt was a burden, and there was insufficient foreign exchange for imports.

The two-and-a-half-hour speech was flavoured at the beginning and end with the traditional but largely meaningless revolutionary rhetoric that permeates Mexican politics. In essence, though, it was addressed to foreign ears - the bankers and governments who were shaken last year by the suspension of payments on \$80,000m (£33,000m) of foreign debt.

In one memorable weekend in August one of the largest financial aid packages in history was put together by the United States and other governments. Since then stringent austerity measures have been introduced - and mostly accepted without the widespread criticism that at one point looked inevitable - in return for the help of the International Monetary Fund.

Inflation has fallen below three figures (the official July figure was just under 5 per cent), unemployment has stopped surging forward

Breakthrough claimed in El Salvador talks

Bogotá (Retracer) - Mr Richard Stone, the US special envoy, said talks with El Salvador's leftist guerrillas had "broken the ice" in the search for peace in Central America.

Mr Stone was speaking after nearly three hours of talks on Wednesday night with President Belisario Betancur, of Colombia, who had earlier met a representative of the guerrillas.

He arrived in Bogotá after briefing President Alvaro Magaña

of El Salvador at a meeting he held in Costa Rica on Tuesday with four representatives of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), the umbrella organization for five guerrilla groups trying to overthrow the El Salvador Government.

ISLA EL TIGRE: The United States has begun building a radar station on this Honduran island in an attempt to help stop the flow of arms from Nicaragua to guerrillas in El Salvador.

Winning the fight against disease and destitution Things are getting better in Calcutta . . . slowly

From Michael Hamlyn, Calcutta

A man in the piercingly white robes with the bands of blue, made internationally famous by Mother Theresa, agreed. Yes, the conditions of the poor in Calcutta are getting better.

Sister Margaret Mary, who has been with the Missionaries of Charity since 1958, when Mother Theresa founded the order, smiled. "You don't get people dying and rotting in the street," she said. "You don't get young children simply thrown on to the rubbish tips."

But Calcutta is still the city of pavement dwellers. It is still a city of dense slums and hunger. The real effluence of pavement dwellers came with the inflow of two million refugees from East Bengal when it became East Pakistan in 1947.

Their numbers have been swollen from time to time as drought or flood or other natural calamities which seem endemic to Bengal have driven people from the land.

The authorities believe that maybe as many as 100,000 people live out of doors all the year round, moving to railway station platforms or bus shelters when the brief but energetic monsoon leaves the roads awash with mud and water.

People have been born and raised on the pavements, have lived their whole lives and died there. There have been marriages in which the proud father's dowry to his daughter was the best piece of pavement on the block to share with her husband.

Schools for the children of such unions are now conducted on the pavements, run by charitable



Road block: The authorities in Calcutta see no hope of ending the city's traffic chaos.

organizations such as the Little Flower Church, or by former pavement dwellers who have managed to lift themselves from their poverty.

The authorities also agree with Sister Margaret Mary that things in Calcutta are getting better, however. Mr S. C. Basu, who speaks for the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), pointed out that in the slums, Calcutta could regularly expect an average of 1,000 deaths a year from cholera. In the past few years they have had none.

The problems of the city were allowed to fester after independence. When finally conditions got to be so intolerable that armed revolution was visibly brewing in the streets, the responsibility for action was taken away from the city council and given to the Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA).

The CMDA speaks proudly of its achievements in bringing a better water supply to the slum dwellers. The last big water works were built by the British 120 years ago. The last main sewer was built in 1896. Now the water supply has increased from

22 gallons per head per day to 40 gallons.

There is a tap for every 25 slum houses. The CMDA has provided sanitary latrines. It has covered drains, provided concrete roads to replace the muddy tracks between the shacks. Street lighting is installed.

The authority admits to one failure, traffic. There have been a number of massive projects to speed Calcutta's citizens around the city. "At present our roads are about 100 per cent overcrowded," says Mr Basu. "In the 1990s when all of these projects are completed and working, we have

worked out that the roads will still be 100 per cent overcrowded."

One factor is making Calcutta's problems more manageable. The city's population is growing at the rate of only 0.4 per cent per year, compared with 7 per cent a year for Bombay and Delhi.

Calcutta has ceased to be quite the moped it was, as the only source of industrial employment in the eastern belt, while in the countryside the land which supported only one crop of grain a year now is more productive.

Minister goes to aid of flood-hit Basque region

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A central Government team headed by Señor Jose Barrio, the Interior Minister, arrives today in the Basque country to work out details of huge financial assistance to one of Spain's main industrial regions, now officially a catastrophe area.

His mission is important not only in laying a basis for industrial reconstruction but for future relations between Madrid and the Basque autonomous regional government.

These had been deteriorating until last weekend's torrential rains and flooding, with an official death toll of more than 40, brought a rescue operation by the central Government.

The Cabinet, devoting its entire session on Wednesday to the problems left by the floods in northern Spain, accepted a provisional figure for the damage to industry, infrastructure, and agriculture, but excluding private homes, of more than 550 billion pesetas (£2.4 billion), one ninth of

Spain's entire national budget this year.

The Cabinet ordered Señor Barrio to open talks with Señor Carlos Garañoa, the Basque Chief Minister, and the other regional authorities.

Many Basque industrialists foresee a two-month hiatus before they can get back into production and some 25,000 workers in a region already suffering heavy unemployment face up to three months only on unemployment pay.

This has been allowed under an emergency provision for temporary redundancies, but the future of these workers is highly uncertain.

Local economists are questioning whether the talks will mean an attempt to reconstruct, on central Government funds, local industries - or a crisis because of the depression and ETA terrorism or finally force the restructuring of the Basque region's old heavy industries.

The Basque Nationalist Party in power is closely linked to the small and medium-sized companies who have been worst hit by the flooding.

Broadcasting on state television, the Basque Chief Minister admitted the region's dependence on the central Government coming to its rescue, but spoke of the risks of favouritism in distributing financial aid.

The Interior Minister, after emphasizing that four Civil Guards had died in rescue operations, said he hoped the extent of future aid would clear up suspicions between the Basque people and the Spanish state.

Elections to the Basque Parliament are due next spring, with the Socialists strong challengers.



Señor Barrio: Mission to build trust.

Police take fizz out of beer extortion plot

The Hague (AP) - A doctor alleged to have sought to finance a coup in Surinam has been arrested in a plot to extort \$20m (£13.5m) from Heineken brewers by threatening to adulterate its beer, police confirmed yesterday.

Dr Hendrikus Doeriga, aged 41, was taken into custody on Monday near a telephone booth from which he was said to have made the last of 16 threatening telephone calls to the brewers' headquarters in the town of Zoetermeer near by.

After his arrest, Dr Doeriga, a Surinamese-born Dutch citizen, allegedly said he opposed the Surinam regime of Colonel Deyal Bouterse, and wanted money to mount a counter-coup against him.

Judicial authorities say they are convinced that no Heineken beer adulterated during the plot is in circulation, and no injuries were reported as a result of the scheme.

The plot began on August 4, when Heineken, the nation's largest brewer, received the "extortion demand" by letter, accompanied by a can of beer into which had been injected a small amount of a drug used to reduce heart rates.

Manila police deny they shot protester

Manila (AP) - Police here yesterday denied responsibility for the death of a student in a three-hour clash on Wednesday in which about 40 people were injured shortly after the funeral of Benigno Aquino, the assassinated opposition leader.

The student was shot dead as soldiers and policemen battled with students protesting over the murder of Mr Aquino on August 21.

A police spokesman said that scores of people, including at least three policemen, were injured by stray bullets or missiles which he said were fired or thrown.

Mr Salvador Laurel, another opposition leader, said yesterday that President Marcos should step down and give way to a caretaker government to head off a violent revolution in the Philippines.

Mr Laurel, president of the United National Democratic Organization, said that such a caretaker government, composed of respected citizens, should investigate the assassination.

It should also implement a policy of national reconciliation by giving an amnesty to political detainees, writing a new constitution and calling a general election.

Guerrillas kill Russians

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Nine Soviet military advisers have been killed in Cambodia by anti-Vietnamese guerrillas, according to a well-informed Western diplomat here. The diplomat, who is regarded as an authority on the military situation in Cambodia, refused to be named but said he had learnt of the incident from a "very trustworthy" source.

He said the incident occurred three weeks ago at an army training centre near Kompong Cham, 45 miles east of Phnom Penh. Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked the Russians as they were instructing Vietnamese soldiers in the use of multiple

rocket launchers. At least 10 Vietnamese soldiers had also been killed.

The incident has not been confirmed by other sources although an official of the Khmer People's National Liberation front (KPNLF) said they had learnt that Vietnamese soldiers had been ambushed near Kompong Cham in early August.

Last year Khmer Rouge guerrillas killed Mr Nhem Heng, Deputy Agriculture Minister in the Phnom Penh Government, near the huge rubber plantation outside Kompong Cham.

About 500 Russian work in Cambodia on aid projects.

The Government's 'Micros in Primaries' scheme is introducing more and more microcomputers to Britain's 27,000 primary schools.

All of these schools are offered subsidised computer packages based on three selected computers - the BBC Model B, Research Machine's 480Z and the Sinclair ZX Spectrum.

The trouble is, that even though the computers are subsidised, there are likely to be more children than computers - which means that each child gets only limited time to use the computer.

The solution, of course, is to buy one of the selected computers and carry on the good work at home. By far the cheapest of these computers is the Sinclair ZX Spectrum.

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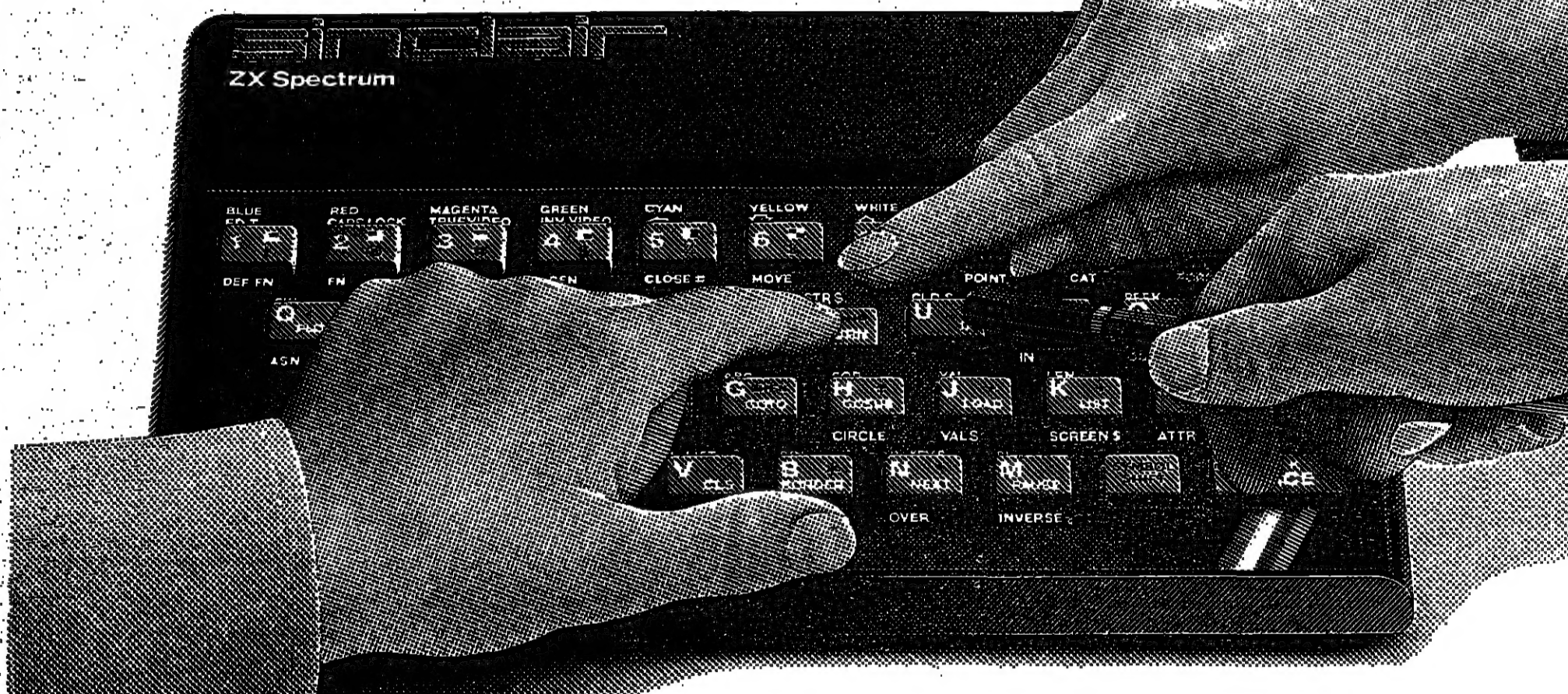
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MEDICAL BRIEFING

The hidden dangers of heartburn

Most people accept an occasional bout of heartburn - that sharp, burning sensation felt just above the stomach - as a small price to pay for rich food and overindulgence. But anyone who suffers it frequently (three or four times a week) should go and see their GP because, although it may seem a trivial complaint, there may be a more serious reason for the heartburn.

This advice follows a study of 126 patients in the Belfast area who had regular bouts of heartburn. Heartburn is often thought to be caused by "reflux oesophagitis", a condition in which stomach juices are propelled upwards into the channel leading from the mouth to the stomach. Because the juices are acidic they "graze" the delicate lining skin.

But examinations of the Belfast patients suggest that heartburn is a far from simple symptom. Of the 126 examined only 21 had no abnormalities. Forty-five per cent of the other 105 patients suffered from reflux oesophagitis, and the others had a range of more serious complaints from active ulcers and hernias to inflammation of the lower part of the digestive tract.

A jet lag pill?

Taking a pill to counteract the effects of jet lag is the latest in a series of international traveller's dream. And at the University of Surrey some fascinating research into the natural hormone melatonin suggests it might be possible within the decade. Melatonin, secreted by the pineal gland in the brain during night time, is known to regulate daily behaviour in animals.

In humans the effects of the hormone are not well defined although it is known to help people sleep. Jet lag results from lack of sleep, and a disturbed 24-hour rhythm. In theory, any agent which could speed up the resynchronization of the human clock could minimize the symptoms.

Dr Josephine Arendt, of the Department of Biochemistry at Surrey has been working on the possibility of using melatonin as this agent, though she stresses that the research is only in its theoretical stage.

Dr Arendt argues that if you take melatonin every day for three or four days before a long flight - at the time you would be going to bed at your destination - your body should gradually adapt to the new time zone.

Alternatively, you could take melatonin after the flight at local night time both to send you to sleep and to superimpose a new time artificially on your natural body rhythm.

Dr Arendt had recently flown the Atlantic and used melatonin three days before she flew. She suffered no jet lag.

Rising cancer toll

Death rate from lung cancer in women continues to creep up in the USA, according to the American Cancer Society which estimates that 17 per cent of all cancer deaths among women in 1983 will be due to lung cancer. This percentage is exceeded only by that for breast cancer which is running at 18 per cent for all cancer deaths.

In Britain, it is thought that lung cancer mortality will overtake breast cancer mortality in the next few years.

Although there are fewer smokers in this country, 23 per cent of the population in 1982 compared with 37 per cent in 1980, women are giving up smoking at a slower rate than men.

Animal ailments

Experts at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Public Health Laboratory Service have called on doctors and vets to cooperate in combat diseases passed on to man from animals. At the moment bacterial infections in poultry and milk which cause stomach upsets are the most troublesome of these diseases in this country. But a paper in last week's British Medical Journal expresses concern that other illnesses passed on from sheep and pigs could become important.

It points out that it has been known since 1940 that most salmonella infections in man came from animals, yet the problem is not yet under control. Bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis took more than 30 years to eradicate.

The authors propose that a special task force of doctors be set up to study the diseases and act quickly in an outbreak.

Vitamin peril

If you take extra vitamin B6 as a matter of routine you may be wise to spare your daily intake. The normal daily requirement of vitamin B6 for adults is only 2 to 4 mg. The vitamin is freely available in the diet, however, and many people add it to their diet. It is also frequently recommended in doses of 80-150 mg to help combat premenstrual syndrome.

But doctors in America are warning that, while these doses of the vitamin may be safe, taking larger doses on the basis that "more is better" could have disastrous consequences. They have seen seven people who became ill because they took as much as 14 to 20 times the usual daily supplement. Over a period of time the individuals developed clumsy, uncoordinated and numb limbs.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

Lee Rodwell on the problems facing Britain's two million illiterate adults

The plight of society's write-offs

When the adult literacy campaign was launched in 1975 many people saw it as a quick "mopping up operation", a short term measure which would virtually wipe out adult illiteracy in Britain within a few years. The recent report by the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit (ALEBU) dispelled this notion once and for all.

Large numbers of children are still leaving school so ill equipped in the basic skills of reading, writing and spelling that they face real difficulties coping with everyday life. The number of functionally illiterate adults is now officially estimated at two million. As if that was not disturbing enough, the report also indicated that the adult literacy programme is failing to reach the majority of those who could benefit from it; however, hampered people by their inability to fill in forms, read job advertisements or write letters, only 15 per cent had ever attended courses to improve their reading and writing skills.

Some progress has been made in the past eight years. Before 1975, provision for adult literacy tuition was patchy and only an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 adults were receiving help at any one time. Now, every local education authority runs some kind of literacy scheme and approximately 80,000 adults a year are getting help with basic skills.

Those working within the field of adult literacy are well aware of the financial limitations imposed on them. Mr Alan Wells, head of ALEBU, says: "What we have done so far is merely scraping the surface. We will have to look at our priorities within the educational system. At present most of the resources are spent on those who have done well within the basic education system, while those who have not done well get next to nothing. It is like having a health service that only provides for the healthy."

Yet it is not a question of money alone. As Peter Leavender, Norfolk's Adult Literacy Officer, says: "We are still not making learning fun. We are not getting the message across that you can still learn things, even though you found them difficult in the past. Adult education still has a middle class image. People don't necessarily want to go back to an institution, to a building with an 'education' label."

Feedback to various literacy projects

suggests that large numbers of adults are unaware of the schemes set up to help them; those who do know assume the teaching will be formal. Some lack the confidence to take the first step - it is still seen as embarrassing or shameful to admit to literacy problems - and others are deterred by practical difficulties such as the lack of a crèche.

All kinds of different approaches are being tried to give adult literacy schemes popular appeal. Classes and courses are being augmented by reading clubs, and drop-in centres which offer immediate help in form filling and letter writing.

In Sheffield, classes have been held in a pub, in a bingo hall and in a health centre, places where people need not feel self-conscious if a neighbour spots them coming or going. Manchester has just appointed a media liaison assistant, Barbara Hawkins, who is looking at the possibilities of working with local radio and television. She says: "We have to widen our approach to attract students. It's no good distributing leaflets and posters to people who don't read. And you can't expect people to come simply because they've been through the school system and failed. They are quite likely to feel they don't want to come back to school and fail again."

If the adult literacy experts accept that they have to change their approach in order to reach more people, they also feel that society should change its approach to the whole question of reading and writing skills. Alan Wells says: "Literacy is a concept that changes all the time. A hundred years ago you were illiterate if you put an X and a literate if you could sign your name."

"These days there is so much people have to be able to read in their daily lives - forms from local government departments, bills, notes from your child's school. No one ever suggests that there is anything odd about going to classes to brush up your French, even though you might have been taught French at school. We need to recognize that improving your reading and writing at 35 is a valuable and reasonable thing to do."

It is clear from a recent report by Her Majesty's Inspectors that the situation is likely to get worse, not



Robert: I got desperate

When Robert Merry went for his first job as a crane driver at Vauxhall Motors in Luton, Bedfordshire, he had to ask his brother to fill in his application form. He left school barely able to write his name and address or read anything other than signs which said No Exit or Way Out.

Now 24 years old, he struggles to explain why he never learnt to read and write at school and why it took him four years before he decided to look for help.

"When I first went to school I got along quite well, but then I fell out with some of the teachers," he says. They put me on those Janet and John books and I just got bored. When I went to the secondary school I was going quite well but then I came up against the same problem. I just rebelled, I skipped off for about two years. I never thought about the future, I didn't think about all the things I'd have to do when I left school.

"I did go to remedial classes, but I was way behind my age group. The teachers didn't seem that bothered. They knew I'd be doing labouring or some low-grade job. It wasn't too bad. I could read a very basic sentence and I could make out what trains were going to London or Bedford. You pretend a lot. If someone hands you a newspaper you make out you're reading it and you pick up enough from the news on television to keep a conversation going.

"But in the end I got desperate. I had to take a test because I wanted to upgrade my job and I didn't do too well. I was thinking of going on a TOPS course and the jobcentre suggested I contact an adult literacy scheme.

"I was really nervous - I didn't know what to expect. But it wasn't like school. No one forced you to do anything. I started to write from my own experiences, what it was like at work, things like that. And a year ago I started to read for pleasure. When I was a kid I wouldn't have dreamed of reading for fun."

Robert has now been working on his English for four years and he has his own theories why people fail to apply for the kind of help he has been getting.

"When people talk about illiterates you don't think that applies to you. Maybe you just feel you need to brush up your spelling or something. Also people are afraid it's going to be too much like school. But it isn't like that at all. Before, you think you're the only person like that in the world, so it's great to meet people who've been through the same kind of things. A lot of people treat you quite rough if you can't read or write very well. They have the attitude that you must be thick, you should have got it all at school."

Mark: They called me an idiot

In an old school building in Charles Street, Luton, a group of adults have enrolled for a course to improve their English.

For some, such as the Asians, English is a second language. Others include Mark Reed, who has spent all his 19 years in Luton, 11 of them at local schools.

It is not the first time Mark has tried to improve his reading and writing. When he left school he did a one-year college course. When he left his job in a supermarket (because he could not check the prices and stockists well enough to cope with filling the shelves) he joined a twice-weekly evening class.

He left before the course was completed and his English is still so limited that he cannot read a bus timetable or fill in forms without help. So why did he give up?

Mark says: "School was OK. It was just that I was a slow learner. When I was 11, I was sent to a special school for slow learners and I enjoyed it very much. I got on all right. Then I was sent to college for a year where they had special groups for English and I got on quite well there. Then I had a job under a government scheme working in a supermarket putting the food on the shelves."

"I found it very hard just checking the price tags, sticking on prices and reading off the list which told you what was on the shelves. I knew they were going to say something about it, so I

left before they could and I was put back on the dole.

"Then I got in touch with Charles Street (the Special Adult Learning Programme's headquarters) and they sent me to classes at Stopley twice a week, about five minutes from where I live.

"I went for a while but I got a girlfriend and other things got in the way. She didn't mind me going but I'd rather see her than go to class. She helps me to read if I get stuck on a word. Her English is OK. But some people have called me an idiot in the past. I went on an electrical course which had a lot of writing and when some of the other pupils saw my writing they called me an idiot."

"It's not too bad most of the time. I

sometimes have a look at a paper and I watch the television news to keep up with things. When I go for my money they sign the form here and I just sign my name."

"But now I want a job at Vauxhall - or any job that comes up. I want to get to the standard where I can do some exams to get more qualifications and try for better jobs. In most jobs you have to read off different bits of paper."

"This course is better because it's a daytime one. It's better than sitting at home on the dole and it's helpful to have your evenings free."

Whether Mark completes the course this time remains to be seen. Many of the students drop out. SALP recently researched why. The most common reasons were moving or getting a job or going on a full-time course. Other reasons included pregnancy, family problems, health problems and a dislike of learning.

Jolie Stephens, who carried out the research, says: "Many of these answers do not show the underlying reasons that were often hinted at during the course of an interview - high cost of fares, housing difficulties, low motivation."

"Of all of these, in my opinion, low motivation is a major factor. Although they may agree that they need to improve their English, after a few weeks other problems take over and they stop coming to tuition."

Or as Mark would put it: Other things get in the way.

A victim of old habits

Sometimes, when I tuck the ironing, I come across large white handkerchiefs with my name typed on them. They date from my first entering a religious order. (I have twice been a member of a religious community, in an active community and in an enclosed order, for periods of four and a half years). In September, 1968 I had arrived at the convent with two suitcases containing what was left of my worldly possessions and those items considered indispensable to the religious life. They included three high-necked, long-sleeved, ankle-length nightdresses and 14 large white gentlemen's handkerchiefs.

I ceased to be a nun two years ago but the handkerchiefs have not worn out yet, so the past is still around. Each time I apply for a job, I wish that I could conceal my nine years in the religious life, but it is difficult to concoct a convincing explanation for the two mysterious gaps in my curriculum vitae.

Two unfortunate marriages, or prison sentences or long hospitalization for intriguing diseases seem hardly plausible, though at times they seem less embarrassing than the fact that I used to be a nun. Employers tend to react as if I am the victim in a Gothic horror story and not really a serious contender in the business of getting a job. The chances of an ex-nun getting a job are remote when she lacks the experience and the qualifications which the other applicants possess.

When I was in the enclosed order my whole life was of a routine domestic

FIRST PERSON

nature, cleaning and cooking with some non-skilled outdoor experience (which is another way of describing weeding and raking up leaves). Consequently, I cannot claim that I possess four-and-a-half years' relevant experience when I am applying for a teaching or social work job.

I have trained as a teacher and did teach drama for a year, 15 years ago, but preference obviously must be given to better-qualified and more experienced applicants.

Signing on at the unemployment benefit office was a harsh encounter with the regular world after the insulated existence in a contemplative community, where we were prepared for nothing more demanding than singing plain songs in the convent chapel at High Mass. After three months of unemployment I managed to get a job as an education welfare officer and a new life in the twilight world of truant schoolchildren and clothing grants began. It seemed a bearable stopgap until something better turned up. Nothing did turn up. In today's economic climate stopgap jobs seem to become the last jobs before early retirement.

I have applied for all kinds of jobs including those in journalism, museums, research for television and once, in a reckless moment, I applied for the position of Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Commons. I thought my previous experience of

ceremonial in the convent chapel might be an advantage. It was not.

In the past, former nuns have written books about their lives in religious communities. Regrettably my experience was undistinguished and inclined to be monotonous (apart from accidentally causing a minor fire in the refectory one morning) - not enough to produce a musical like *The Sound of Music* or best-sellers like the James Herriot vet books. The most I could glean from the stubble in the cloisters was a light-hearted article about the problem of getting to the nearest Marks & Spencers when the sisters in an isolated convent needed to buy their underwear. The article appeared in a women's magazine and led to an offer of some second-hand bras from a generous reader who had grown out of hers.

My present job as an education welfare officer probably offers more scope for a book about occupational hazards. Certainly the transition from a convent in the country to the backstreets of a large town in pursuit of truant school children was astonishing.

But how to use all this vivid first hand material in a book which will not offend my employers, as any description of education welfare work would expose its ineffectiveness as well as its humour? No one wants a disenchanted education welfare officer, nor even one with energy and imagination. Why should they?

Penelope Dent

THE TIMES Tomorrow

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ABUSE OF LAW IN HARARE

The acquittal of six air force officers by a Harare court on Tuesday showed that the independence and fearlessness of the Zimbabwe judiciary most admirably survives; their immediate detention was a disgraceful demonstration of the contempt for human rights and legality that the government of Mr Robert Mugabe is increasingly showing.

There are rare occasions when an executive might be justified in continuing to detain acquitted men: at times of severe civil emergency, for instance, and if there is a real and evident danger that the detainees might instigate disorder if they were at liberty. This is emphatically not the position in the present case. The air force officers are being detained not as a reasonable precaution, but in punishment for crimes of which they have been acquitted. Mr Mugabe's government substitutes its writ for the courts and is scornful of "legal technicalities". Thus the protection all Zimbabwean citizens deserve from arbitrary arrest and imprisonment without due process disappears; liberty depends on the whim of an individual.

The acquittal presented Mr Mugabe with three opportunities. He could have shown his support for an independent judiciary; the judge was an African who had played a leading part in the independence struggle. Secondly, he could have expressed abhorrence at the torture of suspects by the police, the reality of which was accepted by the judge.

Thirdly, he could have made

some conciliatory gesture towards the white population. He did none of these things.

Mr Mugabe brought Zimbabwe to independence in 1979 amid great good will. He made reassuring speeches about pragmatism (in spite of his Marxism), reconciliation and working with all sections of the population - he included whites and followers of Mr Joshua Nkomo in his cabinet - and respect for the law. There has since been a falling off, and a formidable indictment can now be mounted against his government.

As well as the torture of suspects and detention without trial (nine other acquitted men have been re-detained in addition to the air force officers, including six supporters of Mr Nkomo - another opportunity for reconciliation lost), there must be added the atrocities committed by Mr Mugabe's Shona-speaking Fifth Brigade in its action against opponents of the government in Matabeleland early this year. Mr Mugabe promised an inquiry into this, but no report has emerged and no one has been punished. He has also moved against the press, expelling a foreign correspondent and forbidding his own self-censoring press from publishing material relating to terrorism or anti-insurgency operations by his army.

Mr Mugabe is, of course, beset by difficulties. The existence of an unabashedly prejudiced regime in South Africa is a provocation; and there is no doubt that South Africa has encouraged active sabotage in Zimbabwe. Failure of the charges

against the air force officers should not be allowed to conceal the fact that a large part of Mr Mugabe's air force was destroyed in a daring subversive operation. Also Mr Ian Smith's regime, set an example of illegality - in its inception, for one thing - and of detention and torture. The Fifth Brigade followed the traditions of the Selous Scouts.

There are reasons for Mr Mugabe's intransigence, but not excuses. It is also true that, although he is himself a strong leader, he must react to the pressure exerted by more extreme members of his party. But there will be an inevitable price to pay unless this latest wrong is righted and the men released.

The flight of whites from Zimbabwe would be accelerated, to the economic detriment of the country. There would also be a drying-up of aid from overseas. It may be a failure of sympathy, though a natural one, on the part of the British to react more strongly to the re-detention of white air force officers than they did to the re-detention of Nkomo followers, but the condemnation applies to all such cases. The British government will meet strong opposition at home to continuing military and development aid to Zimbabwe unless the detention is countermanded.

Mr Mugabe has intentions to move eventually towards a one-party state. Hopes that this might be accomplished with due regard for human rights and the right to dissent are fading. Zimbabwe looks like becoming an increasingly harsh and isolated place.

TRAINING IS THE THING

September 1 was a bench mark in British social policy. It was vesting day for the Youth Training Scheme, an ambitious measure which falls only a little way short of the conscription of an entire age cohort. Comparable in its scope to raising the school-leaving age, the scheme guarantees for each 16-year-old not already in full-time work or education a place on a state-sponsored programme of training and work experience. At the least this is the latest and biggest attempt by Mrs Thatcher's Government to rescue a generation of British youth from aimless unemployment. At best here are the beginnings of a long-term effort to raise the quality and skills of the labour force to the levels of our trading competitors.

The scale of the scheme is striking. The Manpower Services Commission aims for 460,000 places by Christmas, involving at least 5,000 employers and costing £1 billion a year. In the past big initiatives in social policy have often disappointed; there is some understandable scepticism about the effect of a plan on this scale. Certainly there will be in some parts of the country (what even friends of the scheme concede to be) a shambles. Doubt remains about the take-up of places by the end of July only 46,000 young people had signed on, but now with the end of the holidays momentum will surely gather. Employers public and private have made impressive efforts in organizing placements. However, certain trade unions continue to show a callous lack of responsibility in their refusal to cooperate in providing opportunities for young people in work at a manageable cost to the public funds.

Judgment on the YTS must of course be deferred: the scheme has not deserved the early drizzle of carping it has had - negative

complaint of the sort that often greets any plan of social reform that is patently less than perfect. By September next it will be possible to reach a conclusion. One stark - but reasonable - test will be the number of young people who at the end of their training and work experience remain unemployed. We must be realistic: if that figure is more than one third then YTS will have disappointed. But it will not have failed if at the end of their training the young people have acquired the wherewithal to make their way in the harsh climate of the 1980s. The scheme will not necessarily lead to jobs; it ought to stimulate some trainees to return to college or continue vocational training. The Manpower Services Commission has before it a hefty task of inspection, ensuring that employers (especially small businesses) do train and not abuse the scheme as a source of cheap hands.

Mr Norman Tebbit has decided that reluctant trainees may have to be goaded. Just like the unemployed who refuse "reasonable" job offers, the trainees face a partial loss of social security benefits if they persist in rejecting placements. Trainees are to be paid £25 a week, substantially above the basic benefit payable to an unemployed 16-year-old living with his parents; recalcitrants will lose 40 per cent of their benefit for a salary six weeks. But YTS trainees are not yet Mr Tebbit's equivalent of the Bevin Boys - young men conscripted during the Second World War for work in the mines on the orders of Mr Ernest Bevin the Minister of Labour. The penalty element is fair only as long as designated careers officers ensure a range of choice among placements.

The crude political impulse behind this major act of collective provision costing such a large sum of public money is

maintaining social peace - YTS is an anti-riot device keeping 16-year-olds off the unemployment record and off the streets. The short term expedient must also be used as a vehicle for a longer term policy: equipping the work force of the 1980s and 1990s with the new array of skills required by an economy open to sharp competition from far east, far west and the Continent. A gap has long been apparent. Britain imports too few of its young people skills of any kind let alone new skills; we retain too few of our adults compared with the Germans and Japanese. YTS could be a step on the path back to sustained competitiveness.

Time is short. Economic recovery - even partial - will expose shortages of skilled workers in the new engineering and electronics sectors and elsewhere. YTS should lead into a larger plan for training which begins before the age of 16 in the secondary schools and continues not only to 18 but throughout employment: in such a plan the distinction between school and further education college, between education and vocational training are deliberately blurred.

Such an expanded YTS need not cost some vast extra infusion of public money: large sums are currently expended under regional and inner-city rubrics which, properly focused on work people and their trainers, could produce a better result for both individual and society. Such a plan requires untrammelled thought about the future of employment married with administrative competence in managing "skillcentres" and the like. Some ministers are uncomfortable with the Manpower Services Commission, bothered by its capacity for independent thought. But the commission is the only agency they have and it should be encouraged rather than sat upon.

Lost for words

From Miss Marghanita Laski
Sir, In his letter to you of August 19, Mr Denis Mahon quotes the Conservative manifesto (but it could have been any other recent public statement of noble aims) on the wish to encourage support "for the arts and the heritage".

Since we all of us inherited more or less the same language, I doubt I am alone in finding "heritage" a word, redundant of Gifts Shoppers selling Bibles bound in plastic ivory and Shakespeares in plastic morocco, with crinoline-lady lavender bags and witch-balls in macramé slinger; or, as I have just come across in a Texas-set thriller, of motels in tourist centres regaling tour parties with Heritage Buffets, which are evenings of Euro-ethnic food with old-country fancy dress optional.

Surely this is not the word we want for naming all that the once-creative dead of our nation have most valuably left for us, and which we want to keep, how to appreciate and safeguard. But what - decent, dignified, neutral - is the right word? Yours faithfully,
MARGHANITA LASKI,
Les Forges de Montgaillard,
11330, France.
August 24.

A black moment in Zimbabwe

From Mr Humphry Berkeley

Sir, I have been in favour of black majority rule in Rhodesia ever since I first visited that country and met both Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo, in 1958.

I was prohibited from entering Rhodesia by Mr Ian Smith after his illegal declaration of independence in November, 1965. I first re-visited Zimbabwe when Mr Mugabe, as Prime Minister, lifted the prohibition order in April, 1980. I held no brief for Mr Smith in 1965 and I hold no brief for him now.

The Zimbabwe which I wished to see was a democratic country with no racial or tribal discrimination and no arbitrary actions on the part of the state contrary to the concept of natural justice.

I find it appalling that six white air force officers should have been tortured in prison in Zimbabwe and then found innocent by a black Zimbabwean judge, whom I have known for many years, and then released.

Mr Mugabe and his Cabinet have a clear duty to govern Zimbabwe without tribal or ethnic prejudice.

I am sure that there are in this country many people, like myself, who greatly deplore recent events in Zimbabwe and who hope that our belief that Zimbabwe could become the kind of country which I have described above was not a vain one.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHRY BERKELEY,
Three Pages Yard, Chiswick, W4,
September 1.

Defence review

From Mr Stevenson Pugh

Sir, Three times in the past two weeks you have aired questions fundamental to our defence policy which should have encouraged many other readers, beside myself, to hope the current defence review may initiate a genuine, radical rethink.

It is essential to start by grasping the paradox that a conventional attack of the kind your contributors described would be more totally successful for the victim than a nuclear attack and would offer an enemy the bonus of being able to occupy the ground thereafter. We have seen many times now that a conventional attack which cannot be defended by conventional means tends to isolate the victim. So we have a clear example where threat of nuclear response would be the only defence and where that could only be convincing if the victim himself possessed that capability.

The first point is, therefore, that we must keep up an independently targeted and controlled nuclear force, preferably based offshore. Let's make no pretence about it: having any strategic significance in the nuclear context, it's simply the sting in our tail. That should come cheaper and, incidentally, not be a factor at Geneva.

The second point, the re-think on the Rhine hopefully opening a new look towards the open sea (in three

Trade sanctions as a bar to learning

From Mr John Gillard Watson

Sir, Notification was recently received here that the *Bulletin of the International Statistical Institute*, vol. 49, "Proceedings of the 43rd Session of the Institute", held at Buenos Aires in December, 1981, had been seized by the Customs. This was on the grounds that importation was forbidden, but an application could be made for an import licence.

The application was duly made to the Department of Trade and Industry, but was refused by the International Trade Policy Division. The reason given was that the ban on Argentine imports imposed on April 7, 1982, would remain "until such time as we can bring Argentina to restore normal trade relations with the United Kingdom." It was argued that "any shift in our position would send entirely the wrong signals to the Argentines and hinder our efforts to achieve a mutual lifting of sanctions."

Since then notification has also been received that five volumes of *Comercio Exterior Argentina 1979*, published by the Instituto de Nacional de Estadística y Censos, have been seized similarly. Both sets of items are liable for forfeiture and legal proceedings will be taken for the condemnation of the goods as forfeited if we venture to make a claim that they are not liable to forfeiture - a claim which, it is evident, will fall in view of the above-quoted letter.

I do not question the object of the Government in maintaining trade

sanctions, but it is not obvious that so far as the items cited are concerned it is this country, and not Argentina, which is damaged?

It cannot be maintained that to forbid scholars access to the proceedings of the ISI session of two years ago and to forbid not only scholars but business firms access to the trade returns of four years ago can in any way promote our interests; nor could an intelligent interpretation of the embargo, allowing the import of material of benefit to this country, be in any way a source of aid and comfort to the enemy. Both items are sent free of charge.

If this absurd situation is not put right without delay by the Government, there is evidently every intention that the whole of the learned and business material in what is presumably a shipload, at present held in a Dover warehouse, will be forfeited and, in plain English, destroyed. Where then will the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade and Industry get the most recent figures on Argentine commerce? Will the inquiring businessman, and the scholar be told to fly to Switzerland to look things up?

Yours etc,
JOHN GILLARD WATSON,
Librarian
Institute of Economics and
Statistics,
St Cross Building,
Manor Road,
Oxford,
August 27.

Miracles take longer

From Mr Kenneth Gilbert

Sir, Professor Michael Beenstock (*Economic notebook*, August 11) provides a complex argument to show that there is no miracle in the improvement in productivity in the UK. Those of us in business do not expect miracles but we do see that productivity gains are real and are not the result of some abstract mathematical relationship.

They are obtained, for example, by eliminating unnecessary work, by careful investment in more efficient machinery and by ensuring that employees work when they are at work: in simple terms, by better management and a growing awareness at all levels that we have to earn a living. There is also a determination to hold on to these productivity gains when we have economic recovery.

We have just had another case of workers sleeping on the night shift. If this practice ceases does not productivity improve irrespective of any other factor? The man on the Clapham omnibus would think so, but then he is unlikely to be a professor of finance and investment.

Yours faithfully,
K. GILBERT,
26 Gallows Hill,
Kings Langley,
Hertfordshire,
August 18.

Illegal indemnity?

From Dr Timothy J. Rimmer

Sir, Together with other doctors and members of other professional bodies I have recently been offered an insurance policy which covers any inconvenience resulting from the loss of my driving licence for any reason - including drinking and driving offences.

A policy covering loss of licence for health reasons would be fair enough, but the withdrawal of a licence for bad driving is supposed to be a punishment and, therefore, a deterrent.

A holder of one of the above policies is impermissibly declaring that he may well drive under the influence of alcohol (and perhaps kill someone) but will no longer suffer any inconvenience in the event of being caught. This would leave precious little to deter him or her from committing this crime which is the cause of so many deaths on our roads. I therefore suggest that such policies are morally unacceptable and should be illegal.

Otherwise, why not offer, for example, policies to the "law-abiding citizen" to cover financial inconveniences in the event of being caught either not declaring all his income on the tax form or making a dishonest insurance claim?

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY J. RIMMER,
8 St Catherine's Court,
Clarence Road,
Windsor,
Berkshire,
August 11.

Riches of the land

From Miss A. M. Burrell and Dr Berkeley Hill

Sir, In his letter defending the record of British agriculture (August 9) the Deputy President of the National Farmers' Union quotes an average annual rise in retail food prices of only 9.5 per cent for the period 1977-82, a fall in real terms. But choose a less unusual year, free from the aftermath of a major drought, as base year, and the picture changes.

Over the years 1970-82 retail food prices increased at an average annual rate of 13.6 per cent, marginally faster than the rate of general inflation. Considering the significant yield increases over this same period, due in part to publicly-funded research and advisory work and to land mechanisation improvements stimulated by grants and tax incentives to farmers, it seems a pity that consumers have not benefited from at least a modest fall in real food prices.

Too great a concern with statistical detail, however, only diverts attention from the fundamentals

behind agricultural support. From a broader perspective, it is clear that Community agriculture is too large and produces too much food at the price levels set under the CAP and that these prices cause consumers to pay more than they would in an unsupported market.

One indicator that EEC agriculture is too large is that the resource cost (excluding environmental and amenity costs) of surplus food production is greater than its economic value on world markets. Opportunities to solve this surplus problem in the most obvious way, by lowering support prices, are blocked because of the assumption that, without such support, farmers' incomes would be unacceptably low.

While in certain Continental countries there may be grounds for this view, in the United Kingdom it is more difficult to demonstrate that widespread poverty among farmers would result (although the Low Pay Unit has shown that it is currently a reality for some farm workers).

On the other hand, from a wealth standpoint, farmers who own land are at the moment among the best-

off members of society. And it is generally accepted that support for product prices has played a large part in bringing this about through raising land prices; in the longer term capital appreciation must be counted as one of the returns to farming.

To change the support system so that those farmers in genuine need become its main beneficiaries would be unacceptable to powerful interest groups in British agriculture. If done quickly, lowering product prices would involve considerable adjustment costs, including a fall in land prices. And even then, contrary to the facile assumptions of some environmentalist critics (feature, August 2) of high-cost farming, it is by no means obvious that the appearance of the countryside would be enhanced as a result.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. BURRELL,
BERKELEY HILL,
School of Rural Economics,
Wye College (University of
London),
Kent,
August 18.

Spending in the public eye

From Mr David J. Critchley

Sir, Your report (August 24) that the Treasury paper on the financing of public spending has been "prepared under conditions of extreme confidentiality". Even the spending departments have been kept at arm's length. Does it contain something that you and I should not know?

Enough! Publish the report forthwith. Nail copies to church doors and town halls. Give them away in post offices. Then at least we will be able to come to a considered judgment on the matter.

But what are we promised? "A further exercise in guided public debate." What boundless contempt for our ability to make up our own minds!

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
DAVID J. CRITCHLEY,
Ch du Comté 7,
Coligny,
1223 Genève,
Switzerland,
August 25.

Body and mind

From Dr R. Littlewood

Sir, As both an anthropologist and a psychiatrist, I have been observing with some interest your focus on "holistic" medicine, a concept of therapy which aims to heal the whole individual in his psychological and social context, as opposed to the conventional fragmentation of the western patient into his constituent functions and dysfunctions.

This aim seems to be associated with the rather vacuous and uninformed assumption that non-western treatments such as traditional Chinese medicine always heal "body, mind and spirit" (August 18). Surely all the healing systems, biomedical or traditional, are holistic in that any specific technique only derives its meaning within the context of certain assumptions about man's nature and human society.

Traditional medical interventions in the non-industrialized world are frequently purely physical and often startlingly arbitrary and brief. Chinese medicine may treat disharmony between parents and children by simple moxibustion - burning paper scrolls on the body of the putative patient; no support or interpretations on the part of the healer and complete passivity on the part of the client.

Thanks to the attitude of our medical mandarins, alternative medicine is essentially private medicine and its merits are identical with the supposed attractions of private treatment - an intimate and empathic consultation conducted in a leisurely and congenial atmosphere. Curiously, the sudden awareness of the "alternative" approach coincides with the systematic dismantling of our health services.

The discovery that the cause of civil violence is apparently refined sugar (August 5) also coincides with our refusal to allocate resources to the penal system. Both instances are characterized by a feeling that we are estranged from some hypothetical state of nature by artificial attempts to control our own destinies.

Perhaps it would not be too fanciful to suggest that current interest in the "holistic" approach is merely the reflection which monetarism casts on medicine? Yours etc,
ROLAND LITTLEWOOD,
Department of Psychiatry,
Guy's Hospital,
St Thomas Street, SE1,
August 19.

Private line

From Mr James Pretty

Sir, Your leading article on national monopolies (August 22) mentions the quality of service and profitability as functions of a regulatory authority. Quality of service can include many things, but one aspect, availability, surely needs special mention. Are people in small isolated communities, who may already have lost their village shop (and with it the post office) and bus service to lose their telephone kiosk also, because it is unprofitable? Alternatively, the regulatory authority will need power to insist in detail on the maintenance of several thousand of these amenities. More likely, perhaps, the Government will pass the buck and require local authorities to subsidize private Telecom whenever it claims that a local service is unprofitable, and of course some other amenity will be cut.

If a public service industry is nationalised, whatever the disadvantages, it can pursue its proper objective of providing a public service, which under private ownership must remain secondary to the amassing of profits.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES PRETTY,
24 Merton Road,
Watton,
Norfolk,
August 22.

Breakfast fare

From Mr William Grandy

Sir, Unlike Mr N. A. Oppenheim (August 31) I found your reference to Sir William Wallace being hanged, beheaded, disembowelled and quartered most appropriate.

I was eating a kipper for breakfast.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM GRANDY,
16 Settrington Road, SW6,
August 31.

Brideshead Catholicism

From the Reverend Dr Gerard McKay

Sir, Clifford Longley's article yesterday (August 22), with its suggestion of a secretive and obscurantist minority hijacking the Church's legislative processes in order to impose its will furiously on the enlightened majority, may make exciting journalism but it does not correspond with the facts of the case.

When raising the question of the obligation of abstinence from meat on penitential days in the new code of canon law, Mr Longley uses this to complain about the lack of consultation in the preparation of the code. If he had read *Communiqué*, the official commentary of the commission for the revision of the code, he would have found the original discussion of the matter took place in 1979. A text was agreed on in early 1980 and this substantially is what is in the new code. Nothing was sneaked in at the last moment when the rest of us weren't looking.

Mr Longley, admittedly along with many others, also misrepresents the significance of the canons on abstinence. He seems to think their principal purpose is to take us back to an illiberal and illogical practice: eating fish is no sacrifice, he tells us. In fact, the consultants constructed

the canons to remind us abstinence is a necessary part of Christian asceticism; it was traditionally expressed by not eating meat and, recognising that tradition has to adapt according to one's culture and circumstances, bishops therefore had to have the power to make whatever commutations were locally necessary.

The Church's rules on abstinence are actually exactly those under which we have been living since Paul VI promulgated his *Motu proprio*, *Poenitentini*, on February 17, 1966. The 1983 code has, in effect, codified this legislation. According to canon 6.2 of the new code this means the present local disposition will remain in force, unless specifically withdrawn, because the new code revokes only legislation, universal or particular, that is contrary to its prescriptions.

The bishops, therefore, are free to let the present situation continue if they wish; equally, they are free to introduce new regulations if they feel circumstances have changed from the time of the promulgation of *Poenitentini*. Yours faithfully,
GERARD MCKAY,
Roman Catholic Scottish National Tribunal,
22 Woodrow Road,
Glasgow,
August 23.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
August 31: Mrs John Duggdale has succeeded Lady Abell Smith as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

The Queen will open St Bartholomew's Church Centre and the Interpretative Centre, Passmore Edwards Museum at East Ham on December 14.
The Duke of Edinburgh will give a reception for the board of American Express and American Express International Banking Corporation at St James's Palace on November 29.

The Prince of Wales, President of the Council for National Academic Awards, will attend an awards ceremony in Edinburgh on November 23.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. Becham
and Miss P. A. Hammonson

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of the late Mr and Mrs Simon Becham, and Patricia Ann, daughter of Mrs Sue Hammonson and the late Lewis W. Hammonson.

Mr D. A. Bovey
and Miss J. H. Powell

The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs D. E. Bovey, of Llandudno, and Jennifer Helen, daughter of Mr J. E. Powell, MP, and Mrs Powell.

Mr M. G. Bromley-Martin
and Miss A. F. Biley

The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Captain and Mrs David Bromley-Martin, of Bosham Hoe, Sussex, and Anna, daughter of Major Peter Biley, of Hyde Creek, Devonshire, and of the late Mrs M. A. Biley.

Mr B. A. Everall
and Miss A. H. Watson

The engagement is announced between Brian, younger son of Wing Commander and Mrs Stuart Everall, of Longcross, Fife, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Watson, of Drovers, Mayfield, Sussex.

Mr G. R. F. Kynaston
and Miss S. S. M. Binney

The engagement is announced between Roger, younger son of Mr and Mrs G. R. F. Kynaston, of Croxall, Durham, and Catharine, daughter of Commander and Mrs T. V. G. Binney, of Petersfield, Hampshire.

Mr H. G. Lee-Warner
and Miss A. C. de Rivaz

The engagement is announced between Harry Granville, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Lee-Warner, of Lynes Bar, Winchester, Gloucestershire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs de Rivaz, of Ash Cottage, Icomb, Shropshire, Gloucestershire.

Mr L. N. MacIntyre
and Miss C. A. E. Medhurst

The engagement is announced between Nigel, only son of Brigadier and Mrs A. D. MacIntyre, of Sevenoaks, and Carol, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. T. Medhurst, of Oxford, Kent.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment and The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot) will visit Headquarters The Prince of Wales's Division at Lichfield on November 25.
Princess Anne will attend a reception to launch the Charing Cross Medical Research Centre Appeal at St James's Palace on December 8.

The Prince of Wales will visit the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Committee project in Mid Glamorgan, on November 21.

The Prince of Wales, president, International Council of United World Colleges, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, will visit Atlantic College at St Donat's on November 21.

Princess Alexandra will visit London Docklands to open the Enterprise Zone roads and the new Asda superstore on the Isle of Dogs and at Beckton on September 22.

Mr A. G. Mearhead
and Dr K. S. M. Bryden

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs G. F. Mearhead, of Larchwood, Wilton Lane, Jordans, Buckinghamshire, and Kirsty, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Bryden, of Beith, Ayrshire.

Mr A. R. Paves
and Miss C. D. Lang

The engagement is announced between Anthony, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Anson Paves, of Wilton Lane, Jordans, and Diana, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Lang, of Plymouth, Devon.

Mr S. Sterling
and Miss E. M. George

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Leo Sterling, of Hampstead Garden Suburb, and Edwina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony George, of St John's, Ayrshire.

Mr P. A. R. Wetherill
and Miss B. J. Pritchard-Barrett

The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr Ian Wetherill, of Java, Spain, and Mrs Jane Wetherill, of 9 Queens Elm Square, London SW3, and Belinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Pritchard-Barrett, of Rookery Farm, Kelsale, Saxmundham, Suffolk.

Mr A. K. V. White
and Miss F. E. Allen

The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs K. G. White, of SHAPE, Belgium, and Fiona Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Colonel and Mrs J. Allen, of Chirt, Surrey.

Mr S. E. Wood
and Miss C. M. Walton

The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr and Mrs Walter S. Wood, of Felton, Northumbria, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs George E. T. Walton, of York.

Mr H. G. Lee-Warner
and Miss A. C. de Rivaz

The engagement is announced between Harry Granville, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Lee-Warner, of Lynes Bar, Winchester, Gloucestershire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs de Rivaz, of Ash Cottage, Icomb, Shropshire, Gloucestershire.

Mr L. N. MacIntyre
and Miss C. A. E. Medhurst

The engagement is announced between Nigel, only son of Brigadier and Mrs A. D. MacIntyre, of Sevenoaks, and Carol, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. T. Medhurst, of Oxford, Kent.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Ray Whitney, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon given at Admiralty House in honour of the High Commissioner for Barbados.

Butchers' Company
The Master, Mr R. J. Lickorish, presided at a Court luncheon of the Butchers' Company held yesterday at Ironmonger's Hall. The toast of the guests was proposed by Mr Jack G. Blandford and the reply was given by Mr Kenneth Wolstenholme.

Service dinner
The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers gave a luncheon yesterday at the Tower of London for fusiliers who fought in the First World War. The Deputy Colonel of the Regiment (City of London), Major-General R. C. Webster, presided.

Birthdays today
Sir Peter Boon, 67; Mrs Heather Brigstocke, 54; Mr Jimmy Connors, 31; Professor David Dalziel, 71; Sir Arthur Drew, 71; Lord George Brown, 69; Sir Edward Gosschen, 70; Mr Michael Hastings, 45; Air Marshal Sir Paul Holder, 72; Mr P. B. Lucas, 68; Lord Paget of Northampton, 70; Professor Sir Desmond Potts, 64; Sir Alexander Ross, 76; Viscount Simon, 81; Mr Victor Spink, 50; Professor George Temple, 82; Right Rev David Young, 52.

Lomond School, Helensburgh
Term starts on Tuesday, September 6. R. Scott is school captain and captain of rugby. Mr Peter McHugh succeeds Miss E. A. Kincaid as head of school.

Spectacle Makers' Company
The following have been elected officers of the Spectacle Makers' Company for the ensuing year, to take office on October 3: Master, Mr Michael Rawlings; Upper Warden, Mr Richard Meyer; Rector Warden, Professor Herbert Dartnall.

Latest wills
Mr Claude McGeorge Frest, of Bromley, Kent, left estate valued at £209,575 net. After a personal bequest of £1,000 he left the residue to charity. Help the Aged.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Benito, Dr Thomas Eamon of Portland, Killybegs, Co. Cavan, estate in Ireland, £222,394. Co. Wick, £236,944. Mrs Patricia Maitland, of Llanfair, Gwynedd, intestate, £230,366. Mr Robert Herbert, of Wells, Somerset, £256,667.

Prince's relapse
Bad Driburg, West Germany (AFP) - Prince Claus of The Netherlands, the husband of Queen Beatrix, has suffered a serious relapse of nervous depression and is undergoing treatment in a clinic at Bad Driburg, Westphalia, it was reported yesterday.

Science report
Protective antibody recognized in breast milk

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The protection from infections conferred on babies while they are breast fed, and for some time after they have been weaned, is well recognized. Now a group of scientists has identified a specific antibody in breast milk that protects infants against a specific disease, but it does not prevent their becoming carriers of the infection.

The finding was made for cholera, which kills about five million people a year in developing countries, mostly children under the age of five. The discovery has important implications for immunization programmes because doctors are examining the possibility of deliberately increasing in lactating women, in areas of risk, the level of protective antibodies.

The discovery was made by a team working with Dr Roger Glass, of the United States Centre for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia, at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Research, in Dhaka. The results are reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The research was started in 1980 against a background of scientific observations that showed two general phenomena. Compared to bottle-fed babies, nursing babies were less prone to diarrhoeal infections and where struck, second, in the developing countries where this form of illness was a prime cause of infant death, it was demonstrably clear breast milk protected against common diarrhoeal infections.

Although the circumstantial evidence for protection was regarded as conclusive, Dr Glass said no one had been able to show that specific breast milk antibodies protected against diarrhoeal diseases. Nevertheless, the fact was that there were five times more children between the ages of two and nine being treated in hospital for cholera among non-breast fed infants.

Two antibodies found in breast milk were investigated for providing immunity against the cholera organism. The work involved two stages.

An examination was made to determine whether the two antibodies protected breast-fed babies from harbouring cholera bacteria in their intestines or from getting the disease; and, second, to discover if protection could be enhanced by feeding mothers and babies B-subunit, a non-toxic substance produced by the cholera organism but modified in the laboratory which had been shown to trigger an immune reaction by the body.

Since cholera is a highly infectious disease, the work had to be conducted under exacting conditions. The research also showed that the concentration of protective antibodies varied greatly in breast milk, and the proportion of children likely to become ill were significantly lower when the antibody levels were high.

Moreover, there were often unequal concentrations of the two antibodies. But the two protective agents appear to qualify for the EEC subsidies known as hill livestock compensatory allowances.

Upstairs are defined as all areas above 800ft - about 13 per cent of the land area of England and Wales. The proposals will be seen as a tacit admission that hill farming is desirable only for social reasons and is not economically justifiable.

The association says that so many sheep are being killed by traffic that farmers may be forced to remove their flocks from the moors. It rebuts the North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority's fear that fencing would lead to more grazing and a consequent change in the character of the moorland by pointing out that there are statutory powers to control the number of sheep.

At present large tracts of moor are undergrazed because of the increasing number of sheep killed, it says. "The absence of fencing will result in the most dramatic of all agricultural change, namely the removal of sheep from the moor."

Radical proposals to protect the character of the English and Welsh uplands are to be put to the Government later this year by the Countryside Commission.

Coming from an influential Government-funded quango, they are certain to infuriate farmers and landowners. Some of the proposals may well be opposed by planning authorities as unworkable.

The proposals, as disclosed to *Farmers Weekly*, include powers for planning authorities to prevent the building and acquisition of second homes. All farm buildings and roads would be subject to planning control, as would new forestry plantings of more than 50 acres.

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Miss Teresa Needham who, at the age of 18, narrowly failed to become a chess grand master in the Seventh Masters International in London yesterday. She was playing the Danish international master Gert Iskov (Photographic: Suresh Kuradia).

Stubble burning is sensible operation, Jopling says

From John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister of Agriculture, played host to the media on his farm at Thirk, North Yorkshire, yesterday.

This year he has harvested about 250 acres of wheat and barley and so can claim first-hand knowledge of the problem of straw-burning. Mr Jopling said that burning was a matter for good sense, not legislation.

The farm is equipped to collect and stack 100 bales at a time, and it uses or sells as much as possible. "We use a tremendous amount, more, I would think, than most people, but even so we have a disposal problem and we have had to burn some this year," he said.

"I think there is a lot of confusion between straw and stubble burning, provided you take proper safeguards, stubble burning, as distinct from straw, is a sensible operation."

Mr Jopling said that this year was the first time he could remember finishing harvesting before the end of August. But rain was needed badly if the sugar beet was to have any chance of providing a decent crop, and he was not optimistic about potatoes because planting had been so delayed by the wet spring.

Mr Jopling said that it was very much a working farm rather than a country estate. In recent years it had been managed largely by a neighbour, Mr John Dearlove, but from now on his son, Nicholas, who graduated from Newcastle University, will gradually take over control.

Besides grain, sugar beet, potatoes, and peas, the farm has a small suckler herd and a beef fattening unit. The potatoes are contracted for sale to United Biscuits in Billingham for the manufacture of crisps.

Mr Jopling and his wife, Gail, commute every weekend when Parliament is sitting between London, and the farm, and his constituency, Westmorland and Lonsdale.

Having studied agriculture at Newcastle, then part of Durham University, Mr Jopling would like to play a more active part on the farm, but the past 12 years on the Conservative front bench have made that almost impossible.

"Yes, I do wish I had the time to be a full-time farmer. But I am totally committed to politics - make no mistake about that."

Mr Jopling denied that he had always wanted to be Minister of Agriculture. "Quite honestly I have discovered in politics that he who sets his mind on something is nearly always disappointed. When I entered politics, I never even thought that one day I would be a member of a government."

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THE ARTS

Cinema

A great showman, and never mind the message

The Leopard (PG)
Gate Notting Hill

The Twilight Zone (15)
Warner West End; ABC
Shaftesbury Avenue;
Studio Oxford Street

Koyaanisqatsi (U)
Lumière

The misadventures of Luchino Visconti's *The Leopard*, and the reasons why it has taken 20 years to arrive in London in its authentic state, were described by Geoff Brown on this page yesterday. Even now it is not quite original, for it was shot in 1963 in Technicolor, but it has not quite recaptured the visual brilliance some of us remember from the 1963 Cannes Festival, where it won the Palme d'Or, the Technicolor laboratories have still done pretty well in restoring the marvels of Giuseppe Rotunno's photography.

In other respects, far from dating, the film actually looks better than it did on its first appearance. It may be that there is simply nothing of equal stature about at the moment for comparison (the film suggests incidentally what poor Cimino, with many more millions but not a fraction of Visconti's flair, was trying for in *Heaven's Gate*). It may be too that in the intervening years we have adjusted our views of Visconti. We have ceased to trouble our aesthetic conscience about whether or not he was a great artist with a big humanist message to read, and have settled for the fact that he was a great showman, entertainer, story-teller and *metteur-en-scène*.

He was a highly intelligent adapter, too. The script, written with a team including his regular collaborator Suso Cecchi d'Amico, is a very satisfying reading of Lampedusa's novel, turning words into images and moods. The final tableau scene, an hour-long display of marvellous visual bravura, is a clever cinematic equivalent to the Prince's long soliloquy which ends the book.

The story is set in Sicily at the period of the Risorgimento. Don Fabrizio, Prince of Salina (Burt Lancaster), is a survivor of a dying aristocratic race. He is at once fighting to prolong the reign of his clan and class, and mourning its extinction. Everywhere he sees decay, not just in the self-contented poverty of the country and in the old order, but in the revolution itself. The old regime finds accommodations with the new, the revolutionaries become the new bourgeois.



Visual bravura of Rotunno's restored photography in *The Leopard*

The Prince himself negotiates the marriage of his nephew Tancredi (Alain Delon) to the daughter of a rich parvenu and political opportunist (Paolo Stoppa), "without prestige, but with power, which is more important". The Prince himself perceives the contrast between the girl's peasant business and the inherited decadence of his own people. "We were the lions and the leopards. The jackals and hyenas will take our place. But we all, the lions, leopards, jackals and sheep, think we are the salt of the earth."

The energy of Visconti's treatment comes from his recognition that the Prince's melancholy is not an isolated and temporary sickness of history. It is a continuing problem. Each generation in turn must find itself swept from the present to the past, losing its grip on time.

Certainly Visconti himself shares the Prince's bitter-sweet nostalgia. He uses his Technicolor screen to record the life of that lost era in fascinated detail: the

family prayers in the great house, and the handkerchief which the Prince meticulously lays to kneel on; the things these people wore and ate; their beds, their sports, their manners. The images are richly evocative: the cortege of sombre carriages taking the family over the dusty brown landscape on the seasonal migration which even civil war cannot interrupt; the vista of worshippers in the great cathedral and beyond, the open door with carriages passing in the raw sunlight; the stateroom with all the chamber pots of a princely home ("A house where you know all the rooms is not worth living in"); the cloud of dust stirred up by a cinnabar as a girl runs through a deserted apartment.

It might be a museum; but Visconti gives it his characteristic theatrical vitality. The scene is in constant movement, propelled by a determined, formal choreography. Nino Rota's music, inclining to a pastiche of Verdi (there is a waltz which is actually claimed to be an unpublished Verdi

composition), provides an almost uninterrupted commentary. It is intended as a compliment to the film to say that much of it (certainly Delon's young princeling) has the look of opera, and that you half expect the players at dramatic moments to burst into song.

With all the bravura and sensual delights, the film is immensely enjoyable. All that dates it is the sight of a starry cast still so young: Burt Lancaster, improbably dubbed into Italian; Alain Delon; a voluptuous Claudia Cardinale; and a positively infant Pierre Clementi, as the Prince's young son.

The *Twilight Zone*, which is brand new, actually looks more dated, because of its origins in twenty-year-old nostalgia. It is a tribute to Rod Serling's popular television series of the early Sixties, with four separate episodes, each by a different director.

Three of the episodes are taken from old *Twilight Zone* television scripts; significantly the one that is original to the film, written by its director John

Landis, is the least successful. The initial idea (suggested by a *Twilight Zone* episode, *A Quality of Mercy*) is good, but it never actually arrives at a dramatic conclusion. Vic Morrow plays a loud-mouthed, middle-aged racist, who finds himself translated into the role of a Jew in Occupied Paris, a Negro about to be lynched by the KKK in the Deep South and a fugitive in Vietnam. To be fair, the shooting of the episode was more than unlucky. Vic Morrow and two Vietnamese children were killed in a helicopter accident. The helicopter shots have been tactfully omitted from the final film, but the incident cannot have been creatively encouraging.

Steven Spielberg contributes a whimsical tale about old people in a retirement home transformed back into childhood. George Miller, who made *Mad Max*, directs a messy story about a man who is the only passenger on an aircraft to see a griffin on the wing.

The most ingenious episode, directed by Joe Dante, is about a monstrous little boy who can have everything he wishes for except happiness, and has turned his house and adopted family into things from the world of animated cartoons that is always running, jumping and squeaking on the television sets everywhere in the house. Dante and his designers are very successful in giving the place and the people the look of animated drawings, but even this episode fails to resolve itself satisfactorily. The short-story omnibus is a form that has never succeeded in the cinema: the stop-and-start build-up of one sequence after another - particularly when they are all so much in the same vein, as here - just seems not to work. *Twilight Zone* did better on television.

Godfrey Reggio spent seven years of loving labour making *Koyaanisqatsi*, so that there is a sense of guilty ingratitude in not feeling more enthusiastic about it. It is the sort of skillful non-narrative montage of fine photographic effects that makers of short films offer from time to time. *Koyaanisqatsi*, though, is feature length. It is mainly a tribute to the cinematographer Ronald Fricke's lenses and filters and helicopters and slow-motion and time-lapse effects.

Meticulously counterpointed to the scholarly monotony of Philip Glass's music, the work is intended as "an intense and unique look at the superstructure and mechanics of modern life... [integrating] images, music and ideas". It is rather a matter of sensations more than ideas. The mushroom cloud, the spent rockets, the contrast of derelict humanity and industrial wealth, all the accusing faces (inevitable if you go around pointing 600mm lenses at people) and none rather sensible Hopi Indian prophecies do not actually add to a significant statement on the human condition.

"Koyaanisqatsi" is, it seems, a Hopi Indian word meaning "life out of balance".

David Robinson

Television

Ours is darkness

The British are a secretive lot. As a nation we reserve as a virtue so it is not surprising that our Government reflects this inclination to keep things quiet even when knowledge of them is obviously in the national interest.

BECI is currently probing this dense area of anti-democratic inhibition in Secrets, and is making a good job of it. Last night the producer Sue Bourne focused on state secrets and in particular on industrial pollution and alcoholism. Both are obviously against the national interest but not in the sense, say, of details of our latest anti-tank weapon, though secrecy appears to have just grown and grown.

The Ansonboms, Alan and Sylvia, farm outside Huddersfield overlooking an ICI factory which is high enough on the hazard list to warrant an emergency disaster plan for the area. They are primarily concerned with what comes out of its chimneys. The council knows but will not tell - it only tells those it thinks should know, and frankness from ICI is provided by law.

The Ansonboms are convinced the emissions are harmful. Mrs Ansonbom has headaches and nausea. She and her husband, dutifully logging every apparent

transgression, have carried on a 15-year fight to find out. Other people are concerned, too, but the council's environmental officer, Mr John Greenwood, says the authority does not see the point of a liaison committee with residents - though he concedes, in general, that there should be a stronger right to know.

Then there is alcoholism. In 1979, a government report warned that it was a national epidemic. Neither Labour nor Conservative governments have released it. Enterprising foreigners have got hold of it and published it. Enquiries after copies have included the parliamentary library and the Department of Health. *Panorama* did a programme on it without being prosecuted (it is classified), and you can get it at some libraries though you could be prosecuted for that.

Those horrid foreigners are much more open. The Dutch, we learnt, consult - and citizens can readily find out what is going on and coming out of where. It seems that democracy, in what we like to think of as its cradle, has some way to go.

Dennis Hackett

Promenade Concert

RPO/Groves

Albert Hall/Radio 3

Yo Yo Ma took the Prom audience by storm on Wednesday night in a passionately felt, forcefully projected performance of Dvorak's B minor Cello Concerto. Whether it was the sort of climate best suited to the work's healthy growth is another matter, but for sheer vigour of commitment and lack of compromise his reading well deserved its long applause.

It was the sort of playing which invited the audience to catch its every breath with the soloist, from the almost abrasively assertive opening, from its barely leashed second theme, through its prima donna act in the Adagio to the brutally vivacious finale. And if, particularly in the latter two movements, the music itself was threatened with eclipse, then so too, but more mercifully, was the Royal Philharmonic. It was a little higher on its toes than earlier in the week, but still unnecessarily ragged in ensemble.

Where the soloist was inclined to take too little as read, the orchestra was allowed by Sir Charles Groves (replacing, for

announced) reasons, Yuri Temirkanov) to take rather too much for granted. This reluctance ever to push the innermost content of the score quite as far as it can go took the edge off a performance of Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony which, though undistinctive in character, had broad cumulative power.

Those who watch as well as listen closely will notice time and time again how this orchestra's latent character and imagination flash to the surface as soon as eye-contact is established with its conductor. But too often, the head remained bowed to the score, and attributes like the fine, sharp-edged tone at the start of the scherzo, or the subsidiary detail in the Adagio, slid out of focus.

The strings, too, needed to listen with far more imagination to the sound they were making in the slow movement in order to engage that of the audience. As it was, both here and in the finale, they seemed to weigh down, rather than lift, and even fine woodwind and side drum solos could only take their place in a rather laboriously linear reading.

Hilary Finch

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Social niceties get short shrift

Rosenkavalier
Assembly Hall

Perhaps the shadow of Frank Dunlop, director-elect of the 1984 Edinburgh Festival, is already cast over a corner of this year's events. Mr Dunlop is a man of the theatre; his predecessors, virtually without exception, have been men of classical music. And so at the Assembly Hall this week and next there is a *Rosenkavalier* with neither singers nor orchestra but instead the actors of the Citizens Theatre, Glasgow.

A note in the festival programme tantalizingly recalls the first sketch for *Der Rosenkavalier* found after Hofmannsthal's death. He devised it, much under the influence of Molière, with his friend Count von Kessler and opened it where Act II now begins, in the house of Fainal. Were the Citizens to play this fragment? Hopes of such a rarity were dashed by the sale outside the theatre of ENO's regular libretto. Inside the Citizens were offering the familiar Hofmannsthal text in translation (by Robert David MacDonald) with the music by Strauss R. (two quotations only) subjugated to that of Strauss J.

Philip Prowse, both director and designer of the play, has a good deal more success with his set than with his actors. Nothing could be further in flavour from eighteenth-century Vienna than

the interior of the Assembly Hall, which is pure Fort Knox, Calvinist variety. Prowse has turned his open stage into a vast sugary wedding cake surrounded by a myriad of candles, white canopies and murals. Above are billow-white canopies and in the centre is the rumpless bed where Octavian and the Marschallin have spent their night of love.

At the start it is a visual joy, from the centre stalls at least; upstairs the view might not be so good. But it scarcely helps to observe the social niceties of Hofmannsthal's comedy. Against all probability the Marschallin, Herr von Fainal and the Act III Gasthaus share the same furniture. "Do you call this a chambre séparée?" is a question in the last act *mélée*, and the audience is entitled to guffaw. But the social niceties, on which Hofmannsthal was an expert, are not exactly the strength of this production.

Gary Oldman's Octavian, a bullet-headed striping, far from being "a Young Gentleman of Noble Family" has scarcely an ounce of aristocracy in him, although it does help when he puts on a silver wig for the presentation of the rose. The first moral of this *Rosenkavalier* *chère Musik* is that Octavian should be played by a woman as Hofmannsthal and Strauss directed.

The real hollow in the centre is Ochs himself. On the evidence of the first of the public performances Robert David MacDonald's

Ochs has no more style than his own translation. He starts with the physical disadvantage of being too old and too slim: thin Ochs has no more credit than emaciated Falstaff. Hofmannsthal recognized as much from the beginning when he complained that a spectre-like Ochs would be "the death of the opera". Mr MacDonald, his face pock-marked and carbuncled, his lips liver-coloured, looked more and more like Bela Lugosi and less and less like Baron Ochs as the evening progressed.

The successes included Katharine Klovitz as the Marschallin, who brings a touch of imperial Vienna and in her melancholy monologue on the passing of time at last treats Hofmannsthal seriously. Yolanda Vasquez is a pretty and mettlesome Sophie while Claran Hinds and Johanna Kirby bring a touch of *commedia dell'arte* to the Italian intrigues.

Mr MacDonald may follow Hofmannsthal's text faithfully but he rarely makes contact with his spirit. Words from the 1980s - "gor", "spat" - lie uneasily with Sheridan-esque references to languishing and the vapours. After the first performance of *Der Rosenkavalier* at La Scala Hofmannsthal commented sadly that his text had a major defect: its charm and individuality disappeared in translation. And not only at La Scala....

John Higgins

Murderer, Hope of Women
King's Theatre

A funny thing happened to Glen Tetley's new ballet on its way to Edinburgh. It lost the score by Schoenberg to which it was meant to be danced, and turned from being a ballet based on Oskar Kokoschka's play *Murderer, Hope of Women* into a production of the play directed by a choreographer, spoken by dancers and intermittently reinforced by the bangs of a percussionist in the pit. This curious *white face* looks like a deliberate attempt to shock, but I suspect there may be a more simple explanation: the woolly-minded changing and chopping of ideas during rehearsals. On the other hand, the work is shocking not for its mild pornography but for its waste of the talent of

performers and producers who normally show themselves on a different level from this.

One must not blame the disaster on the dancers. True, they had no skill in speaking their lines; and an appalling mixture of accents is made worse by the stylized rhythms that have been inflicted upon them. But there is also the point that, as a playwright, Kokoschka is a pretty good painter. If he were not, nobody would have given a moment's thought to reviving this rubbish.

I dare not try to summarize the plot, firstly because I think Kokoschka hardly had one, secondly because if he did Tetley has made no sense of it, and thirdly because you would hardly believe it if I described what they did and said.

However, the main themes do reveal themselves as blood and

lust, neither of them convincingly expressed either in the text or in the production.

Tetley presents the women as leopards on heat, the men as naggingly and the heroine as a madwoman. The murderer is Albert van Nierop, painted in wood, given a punk hair-do and draped by Nadine Baylis with some of her all-purpose netting which also turns up in the other costumes. The two cats of Kokoschka's original production had for some extraordinary reason become a forest glade: an unlikely setting for all these goings-on.

Grasping desperately in an attempt to find any floatation from the wreck, all I can get hold of is the self-conscious attempt to shock, with a mixture of crudity, semi-nudity and punk elements which I saw deployed better in a very minor workshop production

by Michael Clark at Riverside Studios last weekend. I also noticed once or twice some movements remembered from Ziegfeld. They served as a reminder of the days when Tetley was making real ballets for this company.

Probably for the first time in my life, I envied those members of the audience who, free of professional commitment, could leave the theatre as soon as it became clear how things were going.

It is odd that Kokoschka's paintings have ended up making so little contribution to this production, since Ballet Rambert seems to be on a real painterly kick this week. There is Bridget Riley's creation - which I shall be reviewing tomorrow - and this programme began with Robert North's ballet inspired by the paintings of Picasso. I must say that the latter, for all its ingenuity,

really has so little dance interest that it cannot bear repeated viewings.

In this context, Christopher Bruce's recent creation *Concerning* alone holds to the company's tradition by trying to make its dramatic points through the relation of dance and music. On seeing it again, I still find the exact nature of that drama confused, but it holds the attention safely and shows that the Rambert dancers, although they cannot dance, are still dancers. What a pity that the programme as a whole gave them so little opportunity to do so.

John Percival

Songmakers' Almanac
Queen's Hall

Concertgebouw/Haitink
Usher Hall

The breadth and strength of music-making at this year's festival could scarcely be better demonstrated than by Wednesday's two main concerts. At the Queen's Hall there were three

singers, a pianist and a narrator; at the Usher Hall the Concertgebouw were at full strength, including four Wagner tubes, for Bruckner's Ninth Symphony. Totally different forces, and yet both produced music of the highest quality while making sure that this year's theme of turn-of-the-century Vienna was never far from mind.

The Queen's Hall programme, devoted to the life and times of Alma Mahler, was never going to be a run-of-the-mill Lied recital of the reverential kind usual at 11 am. It opened with a song not by one of the composers whose faces gaze down from the walls of the *große Vienna 1900* exhibition but by Tom Lehrer, "Alma". The body which reached its emblem/Certainly knew how to live."

For the next two hours, steered by Janet Suzman, taking what must be an extremely welcome break from *Cordwaine* at the Ambassador's in London, we followed the course of that body beautiful and

especially its marriage to Gustav Mahler.

Graham Johnson, who doubles as a most engaging accompanist, has devised an adroit scenario of quotation and narration with the songs, including a couple of none too distinguished ones by Alma herself, sliding in pat on cue. The mood, marvellously handled by Miss Suzman, changes from gentle mockery to hot-bovine Vienna, where Alma can have what and whom she chooses, to total involvement with the death of Alma's first child and then Mahler himself. And, just in case anyone leaves in too melancholy a mood, there is the close with Alma up and aware to Walter Gropius and then to Franz Werfel.

The singers, all right on form, were Anthony Rolfs Johnson, sweet-voiced and serious, Richard Jackson, a polished speaker and a sturdy baritone, and Felicity Palmer, whose tones change colour swiftly with the prevailing mood. The Songmakers' Almanac will surely be repeating this unconventional programme, compiled and delivered with such polish and imagination.

At the Usher Hall Alfred Brendel was the soloist and Bernard Haitink the conductor in Beethoven's First Piano Concerto. Brendel too is incapable of being convention-bound. Some of his tempi may be quirky but the view and the playing are ever fresh, flecked with humour and filled with delicacy. He was justly cheered by a capacity house.

The Concertgebouw are among Edinburgh's oldest and most favoured visitors. When they first came in 1948 they brought Bruckner and this year they bring him again. And why not? He displays the Concertgebouw's resplendent brass and Haitink's special skill at sculpting a massive musical structure, which he does without turning to the score. The Scherzo was held back a little so the Trio could go at whirlwind pace, otherwise there

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Investment
and
FinanceCity Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 708.6 up 1.2
FT 100: 79.51 up 0.18
FT All Shares: 451.35 up 0.99
(Datastream estimate)
Bargains: 20,546
Bastard's 100: 100.26 up 0.52
New York: Dow Jones
Average (last): 1212.91
down 3.25
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 9,228.35 up 38.92
Hongkong: Hang Seng
Index: 955.24 down 10.70
Amsterdam: 149.9 up 0.5
Sydney: AO Index: 706.5 up 5.2
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index: 926.80 up 12.70
Brussels: General Index
132.20 down 0.23
Paris: CAC Index: 134.5
down 0.2
Zurich: SKA General: 297.3
up 2.7

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4990 up 1/2 cent
Index 85.5 up 0.3
DM 4.0425 up 0.01
FF 12.1550 up 0.0425
Yen 370 up 2.0
Dollar Index 129.4 down 0.1
DM 2.6940

NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4975
Dollar DM 2.6955
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 0.58324
SDRE 0.699531

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 9%
Finance houses base rate 10%
Discount market loans week
fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9 1/8% - 9 1/4%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/8% - 10 1/4%
3 month DM 5 1/4% - 5 1/2%
3 month FF 1 1/2% - 1 1/4%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00%
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 100% - 100 1/2%

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period July 6 to August
2, 1983 inclusive: 9.989 per
cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$41.80 pm \$41.80
close \$41.65-41.77 (\$277.50-
278.00)
New York latest \$41.60
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$429-430.50 (\$286-287)
Sovereigns (new):
\$98.99 (\$65.75-66)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interims: Aga, Alexanders
Higgs, Church and Co., Ham-
ilton Oil Great Britain, Meller-
vill Int'l, Westwood Davies
Finals: Consolidated Plan-
tations, Whitworth Electric.
Economic Statistics: Car and
commercial vehicle production
(July - final). Unemployment
and unfilled vacancies (August
- Prov). Housing starts and
completions (July). House
renovations (second quarter).
United Kingdom official issues
and redemptions (during the
month of August).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Bridgend Processes, Con-
naught Rooms, Great Queen
Street, WC2 (11.00).
Cable & Strand, WC2 (noon).
Coleman Industries, Browns
Hotel, Dover Street, W1 (noon).
Hallam Group, Windsor House,
Southmoor Road, Wythen-
shaw, Manchester (11.00).
Shaw Carpets, Post House,
Ossett, N. Wakefield (noon).
Stroud Riley Drummond,
Bankfield Hotel, Bingley (11.30).

Meaney takes
top Rank job

The Rank Organisation com-
pleted the formation of its new
board of directors yesterday with
the appointment of Sir Patrick
Meaney as chairman. He was
formerly chairman of Thomas
Tilling, which was recently taken
over by BTR.

The current chairman, Mr
Russell Evans, will step down
from his £73,000-a-year job in
November. His three-year service
contract will be honoured, Rank
said yesterday.

Lucas Aerospace which lost
a fiercely-fought contest to build
a new anti-radar missile for the
RAF, has been awarded a multi-
million contract to build parts for
its successful rival.

British Aerospace Dynamics
which won the £250m deal with
its ALARM missile, has awarded
the electrical division of Lucas
Aerospace, at Bradford, a three-
year sub-contract.

Redundancies part of new chairman's strategic plan

More job losses and yard closures
warning at British ShipbuildersBy Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

A new long-term plan for the future of crisis-ridden British Shipbuilders will be presented to the Government before Christmas, Mr J. Graham Day revealed yesterday as he took over as chairman of the state industry.

He warned, however, that the redundancy programme, involving 9,000 job losses, would continue, and that more might be necessary, and that yard closures could not be ruled out.

Mr Day, a 50-year-old Canadian and former barrister, also called for a new attitude among workers - "from the managing director to the tea lady" - and much improved efficiency and productivity in the yards. With-
out changing attitudes, "an amount of Government help or market revival will shield us from the cold blast," he said.

Mr Day was one of three nationalized industry chairmen who formally assumed their roles yesterday. Mr Robert Scholley, former deputy chairman of ICI and still chairman of Tate and Lyle, took over at British Steel from Mr Ian MacGregor who moved over to the National Coal Board in place of Sir Norman Siddall.

In a further expected move, BSC announced that the deputy chairman, Mr Robert Scholley, had been appointed chief executive. Mr Day's strategic plan, which will be presented to Mr Norman Lamont, the minister in charge of shipbuilding, will consider whether the BS structure and product line is appropriate in the badly depressed world market, put forward ways to close the infamous gap between British and Far East ship prices and reduce the corporation's losses.



Mr. Graham Day (left), the new British Shipbuilders' chief, with fellow nationalized industry chairmen Mr Ian MacGregor (top right) and Mr Robert Scholley.

The latter totalled £128m last year and while they would be less this year, said Mr Day, there was no chance of breaking even.

Sir Robert Atkinson, Mr Day's predecessor, failed to win wholehearted support from Mr Lamont for a £200m emergency package of measures to tide over the industry until orders improve.

The Minister promised only that he would study requests for assistance on a case-by-case basis.

A response that was not greeted favourably by Sir Robert, who had also made known his opposition to the piecemeal privatization of the shipyard.

How much of Sir Robert's proposals, including an acceleration of orders from other nationalized industries and a rethink of the shipbuilding

intervention fund, Mr Day will take on board is not yet clear.

He said yesterday, however: "I am more than happy to take up Mr Lamont on his case-by-case basis and I look for an early opportunity to explore it. The failure to agree on how the crisis might be dealt with was partly due to timing."

Mr Day confirmed that the month pay freeze imposed by Sir Robert would be maintained.

he hinted that there could be considerable room for manoeuvre on negotiation of level incentive schemes, improvements in pay had to be made from greater efficiency, he said.

Mr Day, one of the youngest and - at £800 a year plus a performance-related bonus - the highest paid nationalized industry chairmen, was careful yesterday not to be drawn too deeply into the privatization controversy although he warned that if shipyard capabilities were put into private hands, the BS shipyards would have to pay more.

"The ship issue is the market for merchant vessels. My attention will be focused on that and the return of the shipyard builders to the private sector I don't see as an issue. I see myself as an experienced professional line manager not particularly hung up on an ideological ideology."

Mr Day, who was chief executive of the BS organizing committee in 1975 but left amid delays in the nationalization legislation, said: "I was used to running a number of people in the 1970s but I think if you look at the market realities had been perceived then, we would be in a more solid position today."

He added that he agreed with Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, at "political and social considerations are for the government and I am hired as a commercial manager to make commercial decisions."

Since 1979, the UK flag merchant fleet has halved and BS has faced a world slump aggravated by allegedly greedy price cutting by the South Koreans which has led to British prices being as much as 35 per cent higher.

Idle assets, page 15

Lloyd's record profit
fails to allay fears

By Andrew Cornall

Sir Peter Green, chairman of the Lloyd's of London insurance market, yesterday appealed for a return to sanity in world insurance markets, after reporting that more than 20 per cent of Lloyd's profits are coming from investment income and capital gains, rather than pure underwriting.

Giving details of record overall profits of £246m for 1980, the last completed trading period, Sir Peter said that the figures are, from a personal point of view, a cause of some concern. Lloyd's keeps its accounts open for three years to assess its liabilities more accurately.

He said it is a sobering thought that pure underwriting profit in 1980 amounted for only £22m, or 8.25 per cent of the overall profit and did not cover management expenses.

"These figures clearly demonstrate what market leaders have been saying in the last few years, namely that the market is far too large and that we should not be conducting a business which is so dependent on the investment department to produce a bottom line profit," Sir Peter said.

A prolonged fall in interest rates would undoubtedly produce

an unwelcome result for the Lloyd's business, he added.

This year's global accounts for Lloyd's have been returned to the Department of Trade in the same form as insurance company accounts for the first time to meet the requirement laid down in the Insurance Companies Act 1982.

Premium income in 1980 totalled £1862m, reinsurance premiums reached £1791m and investment income came to £398m. Out of this, Lloyd's paid £158m in claims, £2113m in reinsurance, and £150m in expenses.

Despite the bad publicity surrounding the recent scandals in the 300-year-old insurance market, Sir Peter said that 2,200 new names are expected to join Lloyd's next year.

He said that, fortunately, Lloyd's business seems likely to keep pace with this growth.

Mr Derek Farley, chairman of the Lloyd's Motor Underwriters Association, gave a warning that although the 1980 motor accounts produced a healthy £41m, underwriting profit there will be a fall in profits in 1981 and 1982 after severe competition in the market had forced rates down.

BPCC plan
for Odhams
site in doubt

By Our Financial Staff

British Printing & Communications Corporation's £20m deal to redevelop the former Odhams printing plant site in Watford for retail use was thrown into confusion last night when Watford Council said that it is unlikely to grant planning permission.

A spokesman for the council said that the plan to build a J Sainsbury hypermarket on the 20-acre Odhams site is clearly contrary to the district and county plan. "Our council has been dead set against out-of-town centre hypermarkets because of the detrimental effect on the town centre," the spokesman said.

The council statement followed criticism of the Odhams deal by Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank adviser to John Waddington in its attempt to find off an £18m takeover bid by BPCC.

Kleinwort accused BPCC of exaggerating the benefits to flow from the proposed redevelopment of the Odhams site.

The strong impression given by BPCC is that this redevelopment will give rise to a substantial cash inflow to BPCC, Kleinwort said.

Mr Maxwell countered last night by stating that he is confident that the planning permission will be obtained for the redevelopment. He said an appeal would be likely if the BPCC proposal was turned down.

Mr Maxwell also said that BPCC's cash and profit forecasts are not in any way dependent upon the proceeds of the Odhams deal. He said that the major coup by BPCC was the closure of the Odhams printing plant and not the proposed redevelopment.

The BPCC bid for Waddington closes a week today.

The Merchant Navy pension fund has acquired buildings occupying two-thirds of an acre of prime land in the heart of the City in what amounts to the largest City property deal this year. The fund is paying £32m for the freehold of adjacent properties on Old Broad Street and Great Winchester Street.

Hawley bid
for Cope
shares

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group had made an unusual tender offer for shares in Cope Alkman International to take its stake up to a strategic 29.99 per cent. The offer comes just a few months after Cope successfully fought off a consortium bid.

On Wednesday Hawley acquired the 7.65 per cent shareholding in Cope held by Hollis Bros and ESA at 72 1/2p per share. This deal took the Hawley stake up to more than 20 per cent.

A further 13.6 per cent in Cope is held by Mr David Wickins of the British Car Auction Group and if he does not accept the offer, Hawley and BCA will control 44 per cent of the shares.

The takeover Panel said it has been given firm assurances that they are not acting together.

£43m cash call at Tate & Lyle

By Michael Prest

Tate & Lyle, the sugar refining and sweetener group, became the latest company to seek funds from shareholders when it made a one for four rights issue yesterday to raise £43m. The issue price is 510p, and yesterday the shares fell by 4p to 356p.

The issue, which will bring Tate & Lyle's cash resources to £44m after expenses, increased the total raised by rights issues so far this year to £3,225m compared with £3,018m for the whole of 1982.

Tate shareholders were told that pretax profits for the year to October 1 should be around £55m, some £15m more than in the previous year. The issue's attractions were further increased by the likelihood of the dividend

going up to 15.5p net compared with 13.5p net last year.

The underwriters were Citicorp, the merchant bank, and the stockbrokers W. G. Greenwell. It is understood that the sub-underwriters had taken up their full allocation by the close of business yesterday.

The company says the proceeds will be used to take acquisitions and expand the sweetener industry worldwide. For some time Tate has been secret of its interest in North America, but last night the company said that it had a particular purchase in mind. Tate owns a sugar refinery at Bakers, in New York State, and an

artificial sweetener maker, Zymaze, in Canada.

In support of its request for funds, Tate points out that for the last few years its resources have been concentrated on eliminating overcapacity and modernizing British sugar refining operations.

Tate is the country's only refiner of cane sugar, most of which is imported from the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries under agreement with the Common Market.

At the same time the company has reduced the proportion of earnings from commodity trading, once a major cyclical factor in its results, and has improved the return on capital employed and cut borrowings.

£1,350m boost for
UK trade surplus

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Britain's surplus on overseas trade in goods and services last year was £1,350m higher than first thought, according to the Government's balance of payments *Pink Book* published yesterday.

It shows that last year the country ran a balance of payments current account surplus of £5,428m, compared with an estimate of £4,078m published a week ago. The record 1981 surplus has also been revised upwards from £6,005m to £6,547m.

The revisions stem almost entirely from new estimates of invisible earnings from services such as banking, insurance, shipping and tourism. These have been bumped up the invisible surplus

by £1,456m last year and £404m in 1981, with small increases for earlier years.

A big reassessment of Britain's trading performance so far this year - now July, June and almost certainly higher - figures for invisible earnings for the first six months of 1983 are due to be published next week.

These are likely to show the Government's picture of its £1,500m balance of payments surplus for the year as a whole to be sharper than suggested, despite a sharp deterioration in trade in goods.

Investment in overseas stocks and shares jumped £900m in 1979, when exchange controls were abolished, to an unprecedented £70m last year.

Flurry of
buying
lifts dollarBy Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

Reports that the Soviet Union had shot down a South Korean airliner ironically led to a flurry of dollar buying yesterday afternoon, revitalizing the US currency which had been flagging on profitability.

Indications that the US economic growth may begin to slow led to profit-taking in the dollar earlier and more than outweighed the continuing concern about US money supply growth putting pressure on interest rates.

The bout of dollar buying after reports of the airline accident stemmed mainly from New York but was not sustained. After recovering to DM2.6970, against the Deutschmark the dollar eased and it closed in London at DM2.6940 - a fall of nearly 1 pence on Monday.

Starting changes back through \$1.50 to the dollar at one stage, but ended the day 1/2 cent up at \$1.4990. It was also firmer against continental currencies and its trade-weighted value rose 0.3 to 85.5.

The pound was a pensive firmer against the Deutschmark at DM4.0425.

The markets are still worried that US money supply growth in the next few weeks will push M1 further outside the Federal Reserve's targets.

A warning that rapid money growth will lead to accelerating inflation was given by Mr Milton Friedman, the Wall Street guru, in yesterday's *Wall Street Journal*.

Dow halts sharp slide

WALL STREET

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks recovered rapidly from a sharp slide yesterday after reports that a Korean airliner had been shot down by a Soviet fighter.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was down about two points. It fell more than seven during the morning session.

Advancing issues gained to a 5-to-4 lead over declines. The trading pace had slowed from the early morning.

Mr Harry Leuchner, Paine Webber, market analyst said: "The market acts better than anticipated considering the news about the jetliner being shot down. But gold was not carried

away a stock prices did not fall very far. Thus, the market should move in the area of overhead supply around the Dow 1,225 level."

General Motors was up 3/4 to 71 1/2, General up 3/4 to 112 1/2. Instrument up 3/4 to 116 1/2. NCP up 1/2 to 120 1/2. Caterpillar up 1/2 to 129 1/2. International Business Machines up 1/2 to 118 1/2. General Electric up 1/2 to 50 1/2. International Paper up 1/2 to 41 1/2. J & J up 1/2 to 41 1/2.

James Capel comes first in 'hit-or-miss' annual ritual

Top spot unchanged in analysts survey

By Derek Pais

The agency is over. Today, after all the lobbying and hunching and, of course, volumes of research the City's growing army of analysts know just how they have fared for this year's ritual, the Continental Illinois survey.

For 10 years the American bank's survey has been the one all-embracing guide to an analyst's standing. And although the men and women who spend their time studying companies and industries say they do not like being put under the microscope, there is no doubt that the Continental Illinois exercise is a serious weapon when it comes to pay bargaining and head hunting.

But the hit or miss nature of the survey - find managers provide information for the ratings, has been criticized. Continental adds to the doubt by pointing out that only 19 institutions have replied each year since the survey was launched.

A total of 199 managers representing about half the firms managed in London replied this year. The bank said: "We feel that our sample has a great deal of validity and is a reasonable one."

The stockbroker James Capel and Scrimgeour Kemp & Co. are once again in first and second place with Phillips & Drew third.

Star analysts, as defined by the Continental rating scale, are Mr

Geoffrey Carr, Mr Nick Bubb, Mr Gerald Horner and Mr John Hewitt (Scrimgeour). Mr Ian McLean and Mr Philip Angus (Wood Mackenzie) and Mr Keith Percy and Mr Kenneth Inglis (Phillips & Drew).

Most surprising result is that Mr Colin Mitchell (Stockmarket and Moore) has after nine years lost the top spot among the best analysts. Mr Mitchell is on

holiday and due back at his office on Monday.

Over the survey's 10 years only 14 analysts have survived from the first and only 15 have stayed top of their sector for at least eight of the 10 years.

What about the next 10 years? Continental believes the changes under way at the Stock Exchange could have a significant impact on analysts.

"These stockbrokers who have decided to emphasize research are now well established with top teams in place. Newcomers to the research market may find it increasingly difficult and expensive to carve a niche in any significant sector."

The bankers add: "It does mean, however, that a combination of negotiated commissions and increasing turnover outside the market could mean less commission income to support any but the best research analysts."

City Editor's Comment

Now the invisibles
come to light

The revelation yesterday that Britain last year ran a surplus on her international balance of payment nearly £1,500m higher than previously suggested serves as a pointed reminder of the pitfalls that lie in wait for the unwary, by they policy maker or speculator, who dare to put their trust in official statistics.

Instead of a current account surplus of £4,081m shown by the most recent trade figures only a week ago, the balance of payments "Pink Book" reveals a 1982 surplus of £5,428m. This, we are told, results from the discovery of £1,456m of extra invisible earnings, mostly income on investments abroad, due to "later and more complete information".

The record surplus in 1981, initially put at just over £6,000m, has by the same token, also been revised up to £6,547m.

These revisions are not simply of historical interest. They imply that the trade statistics for this year too are seriously underestimating Britain's performance.

Since 1979, the UK flag merchant fleet has halved and BS has faced a world slump aggravated by allegedly greedy price cutting by the South Koreans which has led to British prices being as much as 35 per cent higher.

Idle assets, page 15

ments estimates released in a week's time.

Only a few days ago, it seemed that the Government's forecast of a £1,500m external payments surplus this year would be proved hopelessly optimistic, with a cumulative surplus of only £478m, in the first seven months. That gloom now looks somewhat misplaced.

Britain's invisible exporters, thus, have every reason to feel pleased with themselves (even though a large part of the City's extra earnings last year, for instance, reflected windfall gains from the lower pound). Excluding government transactions, the private sector invisibles surplus of more than £7,000m in 1982 far exceeded the £4,600m contribution made by North Sea oil.

Nevertheless, the unexpected boost to invisible earnings may only postpone rather than avoid the plunge into current account deficit presaged by the catastrophic deterioration in Britain's trade in goods.

Between January and July this year, we ran a deficit on visible trade of £1,200m, despite the contribution of North Sea oil, compared with a surplus of £2,120m in 1982 and more than £3,000m in 1981. Imports of manufactured goods exceeded exports for the first time since the Industrial Revolution. And this has happened at a time when Britain is experiencing its slowest recovery from recession since the war.

Given British consumers' huge appetite for imports, a quickening of economic growth would be almost certain to produce the first current account deficit since North Sea oil came on stream. With oil production expected to peak within the next couple of years the old spectre - a balance of payments constraint on growth - lies waiting in the wings.

BP profits pave
the way for sale

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A decision to sell-off a further £500m worth of the government's holding in BP could be announced when Mrs Thatcher opens the new BP Magnus oilfield on September 14.

BP, which yesterday announced increased second quarter profits on £219m compared with £74m the previous quarter, said that a prospectus for the sale of a further seven per cent of the Government holdings is ready for publication.

The sale would raise £500m for the Exchequer. An earlier sale - by the Labour Government - raised £564m and the sale of a second tranche of the Government holding by Sir Geoffrey Howe, when he was Chancellor, raised £290m.

Yesterday's figures indicate

that there would be a scramble for the shares in the City.

Production is already on target for the Magnus field and the Forth field is back in full production after an explosion and fire early last month.

BP Chemicals has trimmed its losses. BP Minerals losses were cut by £4m to £2m. BP Coal broke even and BP Nutrition increased its profits from £6m to £8m.

The company has economized on staffing and operating costs and its shipping fleet has been cut by a third. Refinery capacity throughout Europe has been reduced and a review of refining capacity is continuing with further closures and job losses not yet ruled out.

Investors' notebook page 14

Cut-price coal for CEBG

By Our Financial Staff

The freeze in electricity prices for industrial and domestic users which is due to expire next April may be extended for another year after a new agreement on coal prices to the power industry was signed yesterday.

The Central Electricity Generating Board has reached agreement with the National Coal Board which, from November this year, cuts by five million tonnes to 70 million tonnes the amount of coal the CEBG guarantees to take and limits price increases to 2.7 per cent.

The CEBG previously accepted price increases at the inflation rate, currently running at 4.1 per cent.

The CEBG and NCB have also agreed that after 1985 there will be no guaranteed minimum uptake of coal, although the CEBG will use "its best endeavours" to continue to take up to 95 per cent of its coal from the NCB.

Of the 70 million tonnes to be bought in the coming year, five per cent will be at the price related to world market prices.

Reliable Cadbury unwraps 9% rise

Cadbury Schweppes
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £33.5m (£30.7m)
Turnover £782.7m (£656.5m)
Net interim dividend 1.50p (1.40p)
Share price 105p
Dividend payable 24.10.83

Cadbury Schweppes has become one of those boringly predictable groups. Profits, with just the occasional mad flurry, move forward with steady precision.

Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman, duly unwrapped another Cadbury-style set of figures yesterday when he announced that interim pretax profits had advanced by a commendable 9.1 per cent to £33.5m, much in line with City expectations. So for the full year maybe £100m, against £89m seems likely.

Cadbury remain deep in an extensive capital spending programme which should peak this year. Meanwhile, this is pushing up interest charges - £4.6m higher at £11.6m at the interim mark.

Much of the interim lift has come from America where the soft drinks to sweets company has spent heavily on acquisitions and subsequent reorganization.

American profits at the trading level more than doubled to £5.1m, with confectionary sales buoyant, but the soft drink side is enduring "dull" trading. However, Cadbury is establishing itself in new markets such as apple juice where it is now the brand leader.

Australia and South Africa continued to advance and in Britain, despite a bout of chocolate price cutting, margins have improved across the range and trading profits rose nearly £2m to £21.7m.

Overall interim sales progressed 16.2 per cent with trading profits (£42.5m) up 18.7 per cent. At 105p the shares are historically yielding 6.7 per cent.

RIGHTS ISSUES IN AUGUST (m)

Evode Group	4.0
Unitach	6.6
Aurora Holdings	9.0
Group Lotus	2.3
Dicksons Group	21.1
Parkdale Holdings	1.1
Steinberg Group	4.1
Chamberlain Phipps	180.0
Midland Bank	10.3
Cambrian & General Securities	19.8
Fleming American Investment	0.9
Nesco Investment	43.0
Tate & Lyle (September)	285.1

Source: Samuel Montagu

British Petroleum

British Petroleum
Half-year to 30.6.1983
Net income £484m (£251m)
Turnover £15,529m (£14,218m)
Net interim dividend 1.8p (1.5p)
Share price 438p, Yield 4.8%
Dividend payable 17-11-83.

If there were any fears that BP's second-quarter results would scupper the Chancellor's plans for an early sale of another £500-worth of shares, yesterday's interim statement has duly dispelled them. Improved profits, a higher dividend and generally rosier outlook than prevailed six months ago, all point to the likelihood that the sale will be completed as soon as possible - quite probably this month.

The figures show that the long-awaited turnaround in the troubled downstream markets for oil and chemicals is finally beginning to materialize, reflecting both the firming-up of the oil market after the March OPEC meeting and BP's own efforts to back its business back into some form of competitive shape.

Although currency facts have magnified the apparent improvement, oil trading on the underlying replacement basis improved from a £15m loss in the first quarter to a £123m profit in the second quarter. The Omani and British markets both offered improvements after the horror stories of the last two years, although this was partially offset by the profit constraints of the French product-pricing control system. Chemical losses continue, but at a reduced level.

Perhaps equally significant is the fact that, after spending much of last year wholly dependent on Sohio for its profitability, the rest of the BP group is beginning to make some sort of return again. In the last nine months reported figures, BP has made net profit of £287m, while Sohio has turned in £470m. In the nine months of last year, by contrast, BP lost £97m, while Sohio produced £441m.

There are signs that capital spending has been controlled to help generate extra cash-flow. Spending other than on Sohio was £704m in the first half, whereas two years ago the then chairman, Sir David Steel, was talking of expenditure of £2,000m a year.

The company, no doubt mindful of these taints a while back about its lack of cash-flow outside North America, made a point yesterday of saying BP had a cash surplus of £290m in the first half and as a group repaid nearly £650m of outstanding debt.

The company is on course for replacement-cost full-year profits of £300m plus, with the added spice of the Chinese and Alaskan exploration wells this autumn to keep investors happy if the sale comes in the next few weeks.

Cambridge Electronic

Cambridge Electronic Industries
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £3.95m (£3.12m)
Turnover £50.1m (£48.7m)
Net interim dividend 1.8p (1.5p)
Share price 263p Yield 2.8%
Dividend payable

One of the troubles with being a high flyer is that any apparent drop in altitude can cause alarm. And so it was yesterday with Cambridge Electronic Industries, the group carved out of Phillips two years ago. On hearing that interim pretax profits have risen by a mere 27 per cent to £3.95m the market promptly marked the shares down 10p to 263p.

There is no doubt that for those expecting a huge advance from last year's full pretax profits of £7.5m this first six months looks disappointing. But the underlying position remains sound.

The order book is running at about 8 per cent above that of last year, and the balance sheet is healthy despite the extra turnover - up from £39.7m to £50m - absorbing more working capital and the oddity that, with a positive net cash position, falling interest rates result in lower income.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt at Cambridge Electronic is feeling the competitive pinch. Prices were raised by only about 4 per cent across the board. And turnover excluding Elec-Trol was up by 18 per cent.

The jump from operating profits of £296,000 to £645,000 in specialist engineering owed a lot to one mysterious export order, and defence projects were more or less static at £1m.

Electronic and electrical components rose from £1.53m to £2.26m.

Tate & Lyle

Tate & Lyle's £43m rights issue is the latest in the apparently relentless stream of money raising. Shareholders have been asked in the first eight months of this year to dig into their pockets for £3.255m, compared with £3.018m for the whole of last year. On top of that, Unlisted Securities Market issues have amounted to £140m, against £119m.

Whatever doubts analysts may have entertained about the equity boom, shareholders have clearly felt otherwise. And the ability of investors - whether institutional or private - to find the cash reflects interestingly on the periodic scares about liquidity shortages. It was not difficult, therefore, for Tate & Lyle to get its timing right.

Tate clearly has attractions, however. The forecast of £55m pretax for the year, some £15m more than last year, is possible quite simply because the business is in the best condition for six or seven years.

Tate's management has achieved one of the most credible restructurings the depression has seen in this country.

After spending about £40m on modernizing the British cane refining, still the historic heart of the business, and making as much as £70m gross from disposals, Tate has achieved significant improvements in productivity.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

East of Scotland Onshore
Year to 31.5.83
Pretax profit £433,000 (£419,000)
Turnover £2.43p (£2.32p)
Net dividend 2p (1.85p)

Cattle's Holdings
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £922,000 (£807,000)
Turnover £35.4m (£34.7m)
Net interim dividend 7p (6.8p)

Arrow Chemical Holdings
Half-year to 1.7.83
Pretax profit £188,000 (£133,000)
Turnover £3.2m (£3m)
Net interim dividend 0.5p

British Vending Industries
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £154,000 (£162,000)
Turnover £1.1p (0.97p)
Net interim dividend 0.35p (same)

J. and J. Makin Paper Mills
Year to 31.3.83
Pretax profit £954,000 (£841,000)
Turnover £19.8m (£18.5m)
Net dividend 5p (same)

Continental Microwave (Holdings)
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £407,000 (£331,000)
Turnover £6.54 (£6.37)
Net interim dividend 5p (7p)

Fleming Cleverhouse
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £510,000
Turnover £3.62p

Noble & Lund
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax loss £273,000 (profit £20,000)
Loss per share 4.79p (profit 0.34p)
Turnover £215,000 (£205,000)
Net interim dividend None (0.175p)
Share price 19p up 1p Yield 2.6%

Micro Business Systems
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £814,000 (£353,000)
Turnover £8.8 (£2.7m)
Net interim dividend 1p (nil)

Morgan Crucible
Half-year to 3.7.83
Pretax profit £4.3m (£4.4m)
Turnover £78.8m (£76.3m)
Net interim dividend 3.5p (same)

● **Marsh & McLennan** - The company said that its Fireman's Fund Insurance offshoot has completed the sale of Crusader Insurance to Cigna Corporation. Crusader was 75 per cent owned by Marsh, with the rest owned by Marsh, with the rest owned by a subsidiary of American Express.

● **Kraft Productions** - Formal details of the issue of 1.47m new ordinary shares to a consortium have been published. The consortium has a number of acquisitions under consideration, including a specialist furniture manufacturer and retailer. The company is also looking at the possibility of acquiring investment properties owned by members of the consortium.

Base Lending Rates

BN Bank	9 1/2 %
Barclays	9 1/2 %
CCI	9 1/2 %
Bank Savings	11 1/4 %
Consolidated Crds	9 1/2 %
Claude & Co	9 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2 %
Mand Bank	9 1/2 %
Nat Westminster	9 1/2 %
TSI	9 1/2 %
Wills & Glyn's	9 1/2 %

† **Money Rate**
7 days, 12 months, 2 years, 3 years, 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years, 25 years, 30 years, 35 years, 40 years, 45 years, 50 years, 55 years, 60 years, 65 years, 70 years, 75 years, 80 years, 85 years, 90 years, 95 years, 100 years.

Computer link for research

Paris (AFP) - Three leading European computer groups, the French Bull Company, British ICL and West German Siemens, have linked, to set up a joint research centre, the Bull Company said yesterday.

The centre, due to begin work early next year, will research in the field of artificial intelligence which should enable computers to participate in decision making with the help of non-numerical information.

The three companies will carry out long-term research with a view to products for manufacture in about 1990 or 1995, but this will not result in the manufacture of joint equipment.

The centre is to be sited in South Bavaria in Germany, and results of the research will belong to the three companies which will be free to exploit the findings.

The three companies will continue with their own independent research programmes.

Charterhouse profit increases by 18.5%

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Charterhouse Group, the investment and merchant banking company, has pushed up half-year profits by 18.5 per cent to £11.6m before tax on the back of a strong performance from its development capital division.

Development capital benefited from further realizations in the United States where Charterhouse sold more shares in two successful investments, Dreyer Grand Ice Cream and Peco Pharmaceutical Services.

Combined with a good result in the United Kingdom, France and Canada, this division improved profits before interest from £4.23m to £9.38m in the six months to June 30.

The merchant bank also reported higher profits after transfers to secret reserves - up from £2.62m to £3.10m.

Banking and development capital between them more than made up for a flat performance from the rest of the group and the absence of profits from Charterhouse Petroleum where the group's stake has been further reduced from 19.5 to 12.5 per cent.

The group now only includes Charterhouse Petroleum dividends into its profits.

The manufacturing division made virtually unchanged profits of £3.09m after a sharp downturn at Newage Engineers, whose overseas markets for alternators in Africa and the Middle East have turned sour.

Profits from services fell from £2.39m to £1.76m reflecting the disappointing first half from Spring Grove, the towel rental company.

Helped by a much lower tax charge, earnings per share have risen by 55 per cent to 4.56p but the half-year dividend is being raised by only 5.2 per cent to 2.025p. Mr John Hyde, chief executive, said the group wanted the dividend to be covered twice by profits. Last year the dividend was covered 1.8 times.

Charterhouse had a strong second half in 1982 so although profits in the first half of 1983 are £1.8m ahead, it remains cautious about the whole of this year, forecasting profits at least as good as 1982.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL	
Bullion in £'s per ounce		Official turnover prices		Bullion in £'s per ounce	
Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per cwt		Prices in pounds per metric ton		Silver in pounds per tray ounce	
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APPOINTMENTS

Board of MEPC names chairman

* Ex-div. * Asked * Mr. Distribution * Bid * Market closed * New issue * Stock split
* Traded * Untraded.

Air freight

Airlines are expressing rising confidence in the growing business of delivering freight cargoes.
Arthur Reed reports

The growth of the world air freight industry, which traditionally ran at around ten per cent a year, has suffered along with the rest of the airline business from the effects of the economic recession, but now shows signs of a revival as international trade begins to pick up.

According to International Air Transport Association figures, this sector of civil aviation grew by 9.8 per cent in 1978 over 1977, by 8 per cent in 1979, by 4 per cent in 1980, by 5.1 per cent in 1981, and by only 1.1 per cent last year. Although it is too early at present to gain a complete forecast picture for 1983, individual airlines are expressing rising confidence.

British Airways, for instance, has revised the estimate of its income from air freight during the financial year 1983-84 upwards by £15m to £183m, assessing that £10m of the increase will come from improved trading conditions, and the remainder from greater internal efficiency.

The airline industry is looking to a greater contribution than in the past from freight, because its overall economic outlook remains gloomy, whether or not the recession ends. The industry has indulged in a great amount of belt-tightening, with wholesale lay-offs of staff and grounding of aircraft (one estimate is that 10 per cent of the total fleet is up for sale at present), but is still prey to forces over which it can exercise little or no control.

These include illegal discounting of both passenger fares and cargo rates, estimated to be costing the industry up to \$600m a year in lost income, blocked or delayed transfers of an estimated \$400m worth of earnings in both the passenger and freight sectors belonging to 40 airlines by 30 countries, mainly in Africa, rising airport landing and navigation charges, and above all charges for servicing loans, mainly for new aircraft, what Mr Kurt Hammerkjöld, director general of the International Air Transport Association, referred to recently as, "the interest mountain."

Were it not for this mountain, the world's airlines could expect to move back into profitability.

next year by some £300m, but once interest charges of £1.225m are met, there will be a deficit of just under £1,000m.

The scope for widening the role of air freight as a contributor to the well-being of airlines remains enormous, for although it carries up to 16 per cent annually of United Kingdom trade in value terms - Heathrow was the "richest" airport in Britain in 1982, with exports and imports worth £13,540m, with Dover second - in volume it amounts to only 0.2 per cent.

This is obviously because carriage by air does not lend itself to bulk cargo, such as coal, iron ore, steel, which will always travel surface, but also because many shippers still see air freight as an "emergency only" method of transport for their goods.

Even with this discounting, which is prevalent in certain areas of the world, and particularly the Far East, and a freeze on cargo rates because there is too much aircraft capacity chasing too few goods, air freight rates remain generally higher than surface transport, but can be eased out when the arguments in favour of air cargo are applied - shorter warehouse time, lower breakage and pilferage rates, less packing, smaller insurance premiums, and above all, quicker deliveries.

But shippers remain slow to change, as evidenced by Lufthansa, the West German airline, which is among the biggest air cargo carriers in the world, which carries 25,000 tons of cargo between Germany and the United States each year, a total equivalent to the load carried by just one container ship. Other airlines transport a further 50,000 tons of freight annually between Germany and the US - equivalent to two further such ships.

Taking away just one per cent of the world-wide sea-freight business would enable the airlines to double their cargo business, it is estimated, and although the greatest proportion of sea traffic is the sort of bulk goods which will never travel by air, sea does transport piece goods which would be ideal for carriage by air.

But while the airlines are



Cargo handling at Gatwick: revenue from freight is improving

attacking the traditional seaborne trade, they in their turn are being threatened by another form of surface carrier, the long-distance heavy truck. Increases in axle weights, and higher speeds, particularly in Europe, are enabling the operators of such vehicles to offer expeditions overnight deliveries at very competitive rates, and some airlines, sensing danger to their own traffic, have signed cooperative deals with the trucking firms.

One European airline president, Jan Carlzon, of Scandinavian Airlines System, sees the time when very little freight will be carried by air on short-haul services, and the space which it now occupies in the underfloor holds will be utilised to give more room for passengers' baggage. Mr Carlzon has asked manufacturers to design him a new airliner along these lines.

But although beset on many sides, those who run the airlines' air-freight business still take an optimistic view of the future. Modern technology has come to their aid in recent years, with new

generations of wide-bodied airliners and the containerized freight which they can swallow offering advantages of efficiency unimaginable when hosts of small parcels had to be piled in the holds of smaller, narrow-bodied planes.

Ironically, the small parcel business is now coming back strongly, with the liberalization of private post offices and courier services, particularly in Britain, but many of these parcels are hurried through by the couriers themselves, and the opportunities for increased revenues are as yet only touched by the airlines.

New technology in the form of computers which keep track of cargo items, wherever in the world they may be, which help to speed the customs process at airports, and which issue and check waybills, is also helping to make air cargo more competitive with its rival forms of transport, while keeping costs down.

Brokers and consolidators are today working far more closely with the airlines than in the past, and at some airports are linked into the computerized tracking

systems which are operated by the airlines and the customs authorities. Those running the industry are encouraged by this trend, and also by the trend in manufacturing towards high-technology goods, such as videos, stereos, computers, and television sets, which lend themselves ideally to carriage by air.

Further encouragement is gained from the growth of multinational companies, with factories in different areas of the world needing to exchange urgently parts and semi-finished products.

Air freight has an important role to play in the airline industry's painful struggle towards recovery, but the danger is that airline managements will treat it as has happened in the past, as a poor relation, starving it of capital and resources in their economy drives, and favouring the more glamorous passenger side of their business.

The longer that cargo remains unfashionable, the longer it will take the airlines to move back into the black once more.

According to Peter Campbell, marketing manager of MSAS, one of the world's biggest air-freight forwarders, handling 800,000 shipments and 55,000 tons of freight in an average year, the North Atlantic experienced a 5 per cent market decline in the first quarter of 1983 compared with the same period, last year.

Westbound freight traffic was growing, while eastbound declined because of a strong dollar against a weak pound. The resulting falling-off of American exports meant that eastbound flights were operating with a "significant overcapacity" of cargo space.

In an attempt to solve this problem, the airlines have reduced their capacity on the North Atlantic, and some have stood down their all-freight aircraft. British Airways sold its fleet of this type, reducing its total cargo capacity by 15 per cent at a stroke, and Pan American recently completed the phasing-out of its

ECONOMICS

Are the days of discounting finally numbered?

Discounting - the offering of cargo rates or passenger fares at below those agreed between airlines and governments - is a by-product of the world business recession, and is a constant drain on the airline industry's revenues.

But a concerted effort recently by the industry does appear to be lessening the problem, and the airlines' hope is that with the ending of the recession it will go away for good.

There are, of course, certain areas of the world, like the Middle East and the Far East, where bargaining is a way of life, and where discounting will never completely end. The Arab Air Carriers' Association (AACO) is taking a stern line among its members, and has gone a long way towards stamping it out in their area, but is finding it more difficult to legislate against foreign carriers who fly through the Middle East with cut-rate goods.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has mounted a campaign called "fare deal" in which geographical groups of airlines agree among themselves not to discount, and have the power to levy fines against any of their number which transgress.

Across the North Atlantic, one of the world's busiest air-freight routes, there is so much spare capacity in the underfloor holds of wide-bodied passenger aircraft, in the new generation of "combi" airliners where passengers and freight are carried on the main deck, and on board all-freight aircraft like the Boeing 747F and the DC-8F, that rates have been pushed down so low as to make under-the-counter cuts unrealistic.

As a result of all these trends, air freight is today the biggest bargain for the customer than it has ever been, with some rates lower than they were 20 years ago. In 1960, for instance, the general rate for shipments of 45kg and more between Frankfurt and New York was DM 13.40 per kilo, and is DM 13.20 today. Special bulk rates in 1960 worked out at DM 5.10 per kilo, and are DM 3.20 today, and with a 1,000 ton annual contract can drop to DM 2 and even lower.

A break from fixed tariffs

In such a competitive environment with, on the North Atlantic, as many as 40 airlines chasing the limited amount of freight which is available from Europe to the United States and vice versa, aggressive and innovative strategies and pricing have emerged among this sector of the airline industry, which has never been noted for its reticence in the market place.

Many of the world's aviation areas have now broken away from the traditional idea that tariffs should be fixed by IATA, and then reviewed only on an annual basis, or at even longer intervals. Instead, airlines now go to governments with their "instant" rate proposals, expecting, and often obtaining, rubber-stamp authority. In this buyer's market, short-term experimental offers are commonplace, and there is a growing list of specific commodity and freight-all-kinds (FAK) rates tied in to speed and quality of service, all of which tax the knowledge of even the most expert agent, shipper, forwarder and consolidator.

Door-to-door has always been the boast of the air-cargo business, but now this service is being

extended to "desk-to-desk", with a rising tide of small-parcel and courier services. Even the man in the street can play, with the ability to walk into any of the larger post offices in Britain with a packet of computer print-outs, or similar documents, and by using datapost - for a not-inconsiderable sum - expect it to be in the office of a colleague or a customer 3,000 miles away in the United States the following day.

British Airways will accept small parcels for delivery to major provincial centres in Britain at its shuttle check-in counters, and is only prevented from expanding the service to European cities by the inevitable problems posed by customs clearances.

British Airways, which in the 1982-83 financial year carried 161,000 tons of cargo on its passenger aircraft, has also had considerable success in recent months with a "guaranteed exports" scheme in which the airline promises shippers their money back if their goods miss the flights in which they are booked to North America, Hong Kong and South Africa.

BA and all other world airlines are constantly exploring new markets, and are prepared to manufacture competitive new tariffs once they are found. Currently, exotic fruits and vegetables are providing the industry with a growing proportion of their carryings (in BA's case it amounts to 18 per cent of all cargo) as the diet fad spreads through the Western world, and immigrants from Third-World countries demand the familiar foods of their homelands.

The shipping of greenhouses, flowers, chilled meats, animals on the hoof for breeding or for food, has now become routine, but the problem for the air-freight marketers remains to convince shippers that the service which they offer should be an everyday one for other classifications of goods, and not only used in exceptional cases.

Because of rapidly-rising costs of aerospace production, countries all over the world are joining together to develop and produce new aircraft types. Britain, France, West Germany, Belgium, Spain and Holland are linked in the production of the A300 and A310 European airliners, while Spain and Indonesia, France and Italy and Sweden and the United States are each collaborating on new types of commuter airliners.

All require rapid freight links with their partners, and the cargo-carrying airlines are coming into their own with what they hope will be a lucrative and long-term new form of business.

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NEW TECHNOLOGY

The air-road battle to get there quicker

Greater use of technology - notably in the field of computerised documentation processing - holds the key to continuing development of the international air cargo industry.

Now many of the traditional advantages inherent in air freight are being increasingly eroded by competition from road transport, particularly in short-haul cargo sectors.

Even urgent freight moving between the UK and the Continent now tends to be transported by road which can often offer faster overall door-to-door transit times than air, as well as lower rates.

The major problem for the air cargo industry is the time freight spends sitting on the ground both before and after actually flying. A recent report by IATA (International Air Transport Association), for instance, revealed that overall air freight spends 92 per cent of its total transportation period on the ground and only 22 per cent of the same period actually in motion.

Much of this waiting time results from delays in customs, and documentation clearance. To counter this, airport authorities, airlines, freight forwarders and customs have been steadily developing improved computerised documentation processing systems.

The world leader is almost certainly the ACP80 (Air Cargo Processing in the 80s) system at London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports and recently extended to take in Manchester. Basically, it

helps streamline imports clearance through customs, speed the despatch of exports and enables users to keep track of consignments from their own premises.

Developed jointly by London's air cargo community and the National Data Processing Service, the commercial computing arm of British Telecom, ACP80 was implemented in London towards the end of 1981. It effectively replaced the successful LACES (London Airport Cargo Electronic Data Processing Scheme) system which had handled imports clearance at Heathrow since 1971 and Gatwick from 1979.

At the heart of the new system is the ACP80 bureau, run on ICL computers at British Telecom's major computer centre in Harmondsworth. The bureau is operated by NDPS and its tasks include:

- Handling inventory control of imports and exports for 35 airlines and transit shed operators
- Providing a link to the internal computer systems operated by six of the world's major airlines (British Airways, Transworld Airlines, Pan American, KLM, Alitalia and Flying Tiger)
- Allowing airlines and agents to report export consignments to HM Customs and Excise
- Providing access to DEPS (Customs Departmental Entry Processing System)

figures for import and export trade statistics.

Customs, agents and the airlines and cargo shed operators served by the bureau

gain access to ACP80 computers through terminals in their offices. These visual display units have high-speed printers attached which reproduce computer information on paper as required.

ACP80 uses British Telecom's packet switched data service (PSS) in which data is sent electronically in separate small blocks or packages, a system said to be simpler and more efficient than sending information in one long stream.

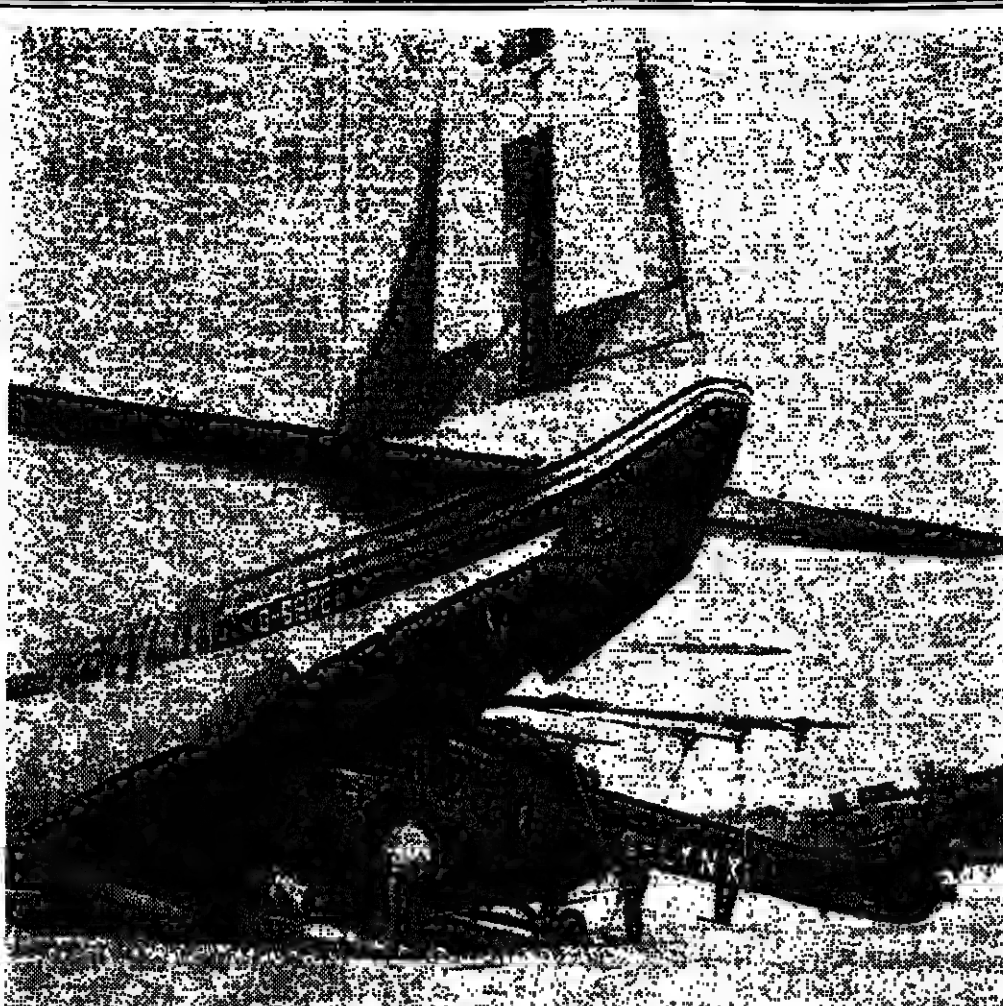
This makes it possible for the ACP80 computers to 'talk' easily and quickly with the base computers of the six major airlines.

The present contract term for ACP80 with NDPS runs to September 1986, with an option for another five years.

Among the possibilities are developments which would allow freight forwarders to interface their own in-house computers with ACP80.

Perhaps more likely is the development of ACP80-type systems at other airports around the world. The United States, Hong Kong and a number of other countries have shown considerable interest in the concept.

While ACP80 is the single most important recent development in the field of air cargo computerisation, it has spread through many other areas of the industry's operations. Numerous freight forwarders and airlines have established or are in the process of establishing their own in-house systems.



Leading international freight forwarder McGregor, Sea & Air Services (MSAS), for instance, has developed a computerised document production system called UNITEL which in addition to producing documents from freight booking forms and house airwaybills through to customs requirements, also provides an international information flow on freight movements.

Another UK freight forwarder, D C Andrews Ballantyne, has already developed an in-house computer system, DECAB, which allows major customer companies to access direct via their own terminals.

Airlines, too, have been developing their own computerised documentation and cargo reservation systems under a variety of different names. Air Canada, for

instance, has ACCESS (Air Canada Cargo Enquiry System and Service) to give shippers and agents a fast response to enquiries and bookings, while the Hong Kong-based airline Cathay Pacific recently announced it is to press ahead with the development of a fully computerised cargo system to be known as CLUBC (Cathay Univac Booking and Information for Cargo).

Nothing too large: a Westland Lynx helicopter is 'swallowed' by a Short Belfast freighter at Stansted

Computerisation apart, the air cargo industry has also been using modern technology to improve loading and transportation procedures.

The Boeing aircraft manufacturing company, for example, plans to introduce a system called the Belt Transport Loader (BTL) into the operation of B757 standard body aircraft by 1984.

The system will be an extension of current belt loaders in common use and is designed to speed cargo loading and reduce the manpower required - Boeing claims it should allow 12,000 lbs of cargo to be loaded by one man in eight minutes.

Basically, the system will comprise five elements - the unit load, ground transport, the belt loader itself, an on-board belt conveyor and a control system.

The unit loads involved will take a number of forms suitable for automatic loading, including standard industrial pallets on a 40-inch x 48-inch or 45-inch x 45-inch base; intermodal modules on a 45-inch x 58-inch base; and various air cargo containers.

Airlines have also been looking at ways of developing unit load technology to boost air cargo traffic. In this context, British Airways has recently been looking at the idea of introducing 'winged' pallets on its wide-bodied aircraft such as B747s and TriStars, a concept already in use with the Israeli national carrier El Al.

Winged pallets are basically normal pallets which have had two of their sides let out on hinges to increase their capacity by up to 20 per cent. Since cube rather than weight tends to be the

limiting factor as far as cargo loads on passenger aircraft are concerned, such an increase in capacity could be quite significant in revenue terms.

Other airlines have been looking at the development of special containers to cater for specific traffic. The world's largest all-cargo carrier, Flying Tiger, for example, now has a fleet of special containers known as GOF (Garment on Hangars) containers to carry consignments from major fashion design centres around the world. The same airline has also recently introduced a new type of in-flight horse stall which can be converted into a standard air freight container in five minutes.

By sliding out or folding back hinged panels, the 'AirStable' can be changed into an ordinary freight container, capable of carrying general cargo, allowing the airline to use the equipment to carry a full revenue load of freight when not being used to transport bloodstock," said a Flying Tiger spokesman.

Still on the subject of containers and ULDs (unit load devices), British Aerospace earlier this year launched a new multi-million pound container examination system (CES) designed to allow customs authorities to examine such units without unloading/unpacking or causing damage.

The examination is by means of X-rays and spectrographic gas analysis in a purpose-built facility. The X-rays show the contents for viewing on closed circuit television while an air sample is taken for spectrographic analysis which would reveal any contraband such as alcohol, drugs or explosives.

If introduced on a large scale, the CES operation could speed up the handling and clearance of containers.

Phillip Hastings

CARGO CENTRES

Keeping track of the goods

Old hands at British Airways who were around in the late 1960s when BEA and BOAC, now incorporated into BA, opened automated air freight centres at London's Heathrow airport, still recall with alarm the days when customers pounded the counters and demanded consignments which had apparently been swallowed by the computer for ever. Angry scenes which developed were being repeated throughout the industry at that time as airlines attempted to go too far too fast with automation, envisaging the day when machines would take over from people.

The lesson was quickly learned, although at vast expense, that air freight with its parcels of all sizes and awkward shapes, its high and low priorities, and its often highly-perishable nature, does not lend itself naturally to automatic handling.

Soon, much of the expensive stacking and storing machinery was being taken out to be replaced by muscle power, and a visit to the British Airways cargo centre at Heathrow today will quickly establish that one of the most important pieces of equipment for shifting air freight about the place is the forklift truck - although computers give the forklift their instructions, and the loading of containers is automated.

This opened in early 1982 after six years of planning followed by three and a half years of building, and although not without its initial snags, now handles with a high degree of automation some 400,000 tons of freight annually.

Some airlines have persevered to make automatic cargo handling work, one of the foremost being the West German carrier Lufthansa which, however, waited until it saw the lessons learned by others before investing the equivalent of £60m in the development of a new cargo centre at Frankfurt international airport.

Two computers lie at the heart of the Lufthansa terminal, one the existing main terminal of the airline, which accommodates all the paper work connected with air cargo, and a second, installed specially to bring forward the goods which are stored in the warehouse. These are stored in hundreds of small trucks which run about the shed, at the command of the computer, on tracks at ceiling level. When not required, the trucks with their loads are stored in a five-storey high stacking area from which they are automatically retrieved by one of ten ETVs elevating transfer vehicles.

Lufthansa engineers designed the freight centre, and in doing so planned for things to go wrong. Each ETV, although commanded by computer, has a cab for a driver, while each of the small trucks, as well as having a "magic eye" code on its side which can be read by computer, also has a number which can be read by the human eye if the automatic system breaks down.

But while some airlines, like BA, rely on the forklift and others like Lufthansa, rely on robotics to move freight on the ground,

almost all of them agree that a high degree of computerisation is vital to document it, marshal it, and to keep track of it across the world's air routes.

KLM, the Dutch airline, uses a system called Cargoal, based on a concept developed by the Italian national airline, Alitalia, and now used by a number of carriers all over the world. Data on shipments and flights is entered directly into a central memory bank, which then produces all the necessary shipping documents and manifests, and indicates when each piece of freight should be brought forward from store ready for loading on to the aircraft.

Some 60 KLM stations all over the world are linked into Cargoal at Amsterdam so that instant freight space reservations can be made from thousands of miles away through the tapping of a few keys on a visual display unit.

Cargoal truly comes into its own in Holland, where the export of flowers and plants by air is big business. KLM has a cargo office in the flower auction building in Aalsmeer, and the containers and pallets destined for the aircraft are loaded there before being taken to Schiphol airport by truck.

The computer is given information about the contents of each container, which it then flashes to each destination airport so that there is no delay in local distribution.

Airlines and the customs authorities at Heathrow claim that their computerised systems are even more efficient than that of the Dutch, and British Airways is currently seeking to sell parts of its system, now connected to 79 of its 132 stations world-wide, to other airlines through the International Air Transport Association.

Airlines and cargo agents at Heathrow are on a community computer, and this reports each landing of cargo to customs and excise, whose own computerised system, ACP80 can be queried for time of clearance and other essential information.

Now, most goods at Heathrow are cleared through customs within hours. Not many years ago, the "dwell time" awaiting official clearance could be anything up to five days.

The advantages of such expeditious handling are many. They include making London more popular as a European transshipment port, so adding to Britain's invisible earnings and to the airline's revenues, keeping British industry moving without delays while parts or materials are awaited and reducing the amount of space at the airport required by the airlines and their agents for storing goods.

Heathrow handles around half a million tons of freight each year, while Gatwick, the second London airport, deals with 125,000 tons. It would seem sensible, therefore, to transfer some of this traffic, but in spite of its overcrowded nature - Heathrow remains the honey-pot for the world's airlines.

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RUGBY UNION

England's wooden spoon can feed fires of revival

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Let us assume, for administrative convenience as it were, that 1983-84 will be a normal season, that Englishmen will do championship battle with Welshmen, Scot and Irishmen, that the French will add their quota of *saucis fairs* and that the disparate talents of Zimbabwean, Canadian, Japanese and New Zealand will add a novelty of approach from which all may benefit.

We will ignore the possibility of a professional tournament for the present. But we cannot ignore the fact that, during the summer, there has been a disappointing tour by the British Lions. In good years the Lions can set a pattern for the home countries to follow; the 1971 team gave us overseas play and increased our awareness of forward technicalities. The 1974 Lions built on that forward base, they finished as wooden spoonists, they can hardly go anywhere but up. They have a new selection panel, a new coach and will be looking at new players.

Whether they will be able to advance as far as they should against a system which rates the county championship higher than either a divisional championship or a club league is problematical, but a season that contains a highly successful John Player Cup final and at under-23, clubs, under-18 and under-16 schools levels suggests that not all is sackcloth and ashes. The visit of the New Zealanders even gives the divisions first-rate opposition against whom to range themselves.

At least Richard Greenwood, England's coach, has the advantage of the 1980 grand slam hanging over him. It took England several tortuous years to manufacture the 1980 side and Mike Davis inherited it in his first season as coach - which, in a sense, was his misfortune because, having started his senior coaching career thus, he could only go downhill thereafter.

Greenwood, too, can probably sympathize with the puzzle expressed by senior England players last season when they saw Michael Stemp dropped from the left wing with no ready-made replacement available and then found the selectors prepared to execute a smart about-turn by dropping both half backs in mid-season. During the summer, Greenwood toured the four English clubs, introducing himself to players and stressing the need for greater fitness from international aspirants. He is also, as the under-23 squad have discovered over the last three years, keen to leave decision-making in the hands of the players. It is to be hoped that his fellow selectors will recognize that the coach is the man in overall charge of preparations for championship games and that they will give him the players he wants.

In matters of fact, the All Blacks excel. Their playing structure all the way down insists that a New Zealand player will be involved in some 28 games for his club during the season, of which all but a handful are league games. The better players will receive additional coaching at provincial level and will be watched in Ranfurly Shield games, as junior All Blacks, in Maori representative teams and in trials before winning their All Black cap.

Some players in Britain, particularly in England and Wales, are expected still to play between 45 and 50 games for their clubs, or if not for their clubs, for their county, area or country, plus the odd exhibition game or charity event to bump up

the total. This is nothing new. The Mailbox Report expressed the hope 10 years ago that playing commitments could be decreased. So much for progress.

Nevertheless, and despite the deficiencies of the game's structure in England, the talent exists for a revival. Wales, you may be sure, will build on last season's new look side, buoyed up by the knowledge that it was three Welshmen who had been three key figures for the Lions but for the injuries which put Jeff Squire, Ian Stephens and Terry Holmes on an early flight home.

Wales and Scotland are coached by backs, John Bevan and Colin Telfer, both former international stand-off halves, which may be relevant if we are to see some sign of British back play returning to former glories. In that respect it is pertinent that four of England's six technical administrators were backs.

Ireland will be coached by Bill McCaffrey, a former international stand-off half, which may be relevant if we are to see some sign of British back play returning to former glories. In that respect it is pertinent that four of England's six technical administrators were backs.



Greenwood stressed fitness

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Low morale could hinder the British

From Jim Ralston, Duisburg, West Germany

Four of the 12 British crews in the world championships remain to contest the semi-final rounds today on the Wedau course here. The boats in the British team are far from high, but the problems should have been resolved at home before competitors were faced with the rigours of international rowing. A finalist could provide inspiration before next year's Olympic Games, but Britain will be hard pressed to produce one.

The single sculler, Beryl Mitchell, meets the Soviet Union's world champion, Kina Fetisova, and the talented East German youngster, Jutta Hampel. Miss Mitchell will be favoured to win, but she will be facing a formidable opponent in the form of the Soviet Union's world champion, Kina Fetisova, and the talented East German youngster, Jutta Hampel.

The men's heavyweight coxed four will hardly complain about their draw, which brings them into conflict with Italy, Bulgaria, the Soviet Union, Hungary and West Germany. In the first semi-final, they will face the Soviet Union, Hungary and West Germany.

The British men's lightweight coxed four meet three nations who have been in the world finals in the past. They will face the Soviet Union, Hungary and West Germany.

Unbeaten Prean reaches last eight

From a Special Correspondent, Bridgetown, Barbados

Carl Prean, the England No 1, aged 16, qualified for the quarter-finals of the Three Fives World Cup yesterday by beating the world No 12, Kim Ki Tuck, of South Korea, 18-21, 21-13, 21-14, thanks largely to a wonderful run of points on his backhand serve.

Spontaneous applause are coming thick and fast at the moment. This was his second over a 20 top player in three days and his third in a row, leaving him top of his group and one of only two players still unbeaten.

The draw has paired the tale of Wright schoolboy with Jan-Ove Waldner, the world No 8, against whom he saved four match points for victory, his first ever over him on the opening day. The Swede is bursting for revenge and is arguably the most dangerous man left in the competition.

In the biggest sensation for years, both the Chinese, Cai Zhen-Hua and Jiang Jia-Liang, failed to win. They were paired in the same remarkable way, after a count of games and points when three players finished level on two wins.

Wisdom of one-day play-off questioned

By Michael Berry

The season is now over for most minor county sides. In the championship, sponsored by United Friendly Insurance, only the play-off under NatWest Trophy rules at Worcester on September 18 remains. The wisdom of a one-day play-off to determine the champions of a two-day competition, has been questioned.

There are doubts, too, about the appeal of a Worcester venue for a Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire final. Although it is an attractive setting, Worcester's link with the minor county game is almost nonexistent.

Likewise, the idea of playing the semi-finals and final of the EIE trophy at Darlington and Jesmond is not without its critics. Here the absence of North-Eastern involvement is a major setback. Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Wiltshire and Cheshire are the semi-finalists and it is interesting that three of them are among the six minor county sides who have failed to qualify for the 1984 NatWest Trophy.

Wiltshire are the odd side out. They scraped into the Cheshire, who were edged out of contention as the best-placed seventh county because Staffordshire had won more games in the eastern division. One of the surprising non-qualifiers from

Dutch take on the world

It is not only at Lord's tomorrow that a one-day cricket match will attract a full house and extensive television coverage (Marcus Williams writes). While attention in Britain is focused on the Nat West Trophy final at Lord's, across the North Sea in The Hague, the Dutch national side, expected to be reinforced by Allan Lamb and culminated in the celebrations. All cricket in The Netherlands is played on lively matting pitches and it was on one of these in 1964 that the enthusiastic amateur national side scored their most famous victory over an Australian team which included Lawry, O'Neill, Burge.

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YACHTING

A cup for the Kidds

By John Nicholls

The names of the Canadian brothers, Jamie and Hugh Kidd, were added to the long list of holders of the Prince of Wales Cup when they won the fifth race of the International 14 foot world championship at Pevensey Bay yesterday. This trophy, the oldest in the world for an international dinghy class, was first contested in 1927 and has been one of the most sought after yachting prizes ever since.

A points cup for the week and the world championship are comparatively recent innovations. The Prince of Wales Cup is still regarded as an event in its own right, over the longest course of the week. The Kidds were always among the favourites to win having already won the second and third races of the series, and the results closely followed the week's established form.

Philip Morrison and Martin Goss, the leading British crew, were placed second followed by

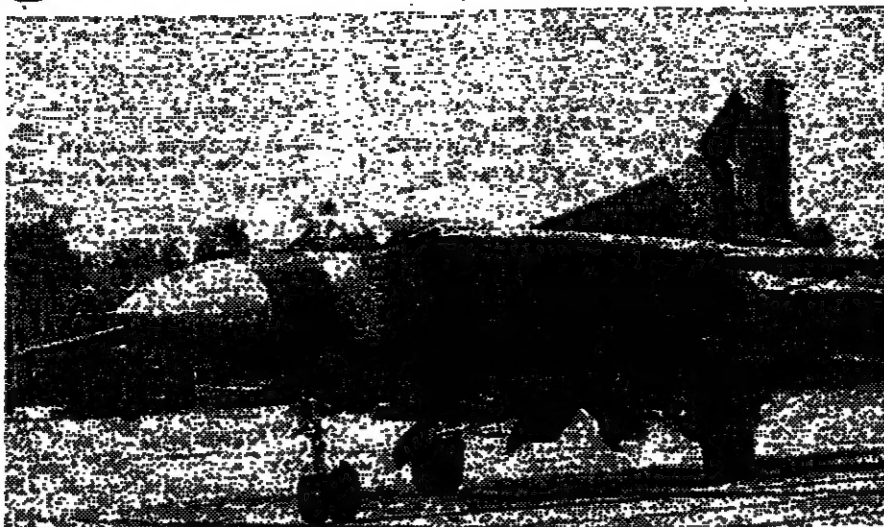
Chris Benedict and Matt Blake of America. Morrison again sailed extremely fast but, not for the first time, left himself too much to do after a disappointing start.

He improved from sixteenth at the first mark and was always catching the Kidds.

The British, Canadians and Americans took the top three places, the first six, a satisfactory distribution of the spoils. The second Canadian boat, in sixth place, was sailed by Karen Blesby with her husband John on the transom, a commendable achievement in the fresh conditions. The Kidds now lead the championship on points with Benedict second and Morrison third.

OF WALE'S CUP (14 foot) sailed at Pevensey Bay yesterday. 1. Bruce Kidd (J) and H. Kidd (J), Canada; 2. Philip Morrison (J) and Martin Goss (J), Britain; 3. Chris Benedict (J) and Matt Blake (J), America; 4. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 5. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 6. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 7. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 8. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 9. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 10. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 11. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 12. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 13. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 14. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 15. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 16. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 17. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 18. Karen Blesby (J) and John Blesby (J), Canada; 19. 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Waiting for KAL flight 007: victims of a superpower crisis



Elements of tragedy: Left, sisters of Lee Chul-Kyu, one of the passengers on the Korean Airlines 747, weep together at Seoul airport as a South Korean government spokesman announces it is "almost certain" that the aircraft has been shot down; centre left, a MiG 23 "Flogger" jet fighter, similar to the one which the Americans say shot down the KAL plane; centre right, US Congressman Lawrence P. McDonald, another of the plane's passengers. Mr McDonald was a member of a Congressional delegation on his way to South Korea. He had missed an earlier plane carrying the rest of the delegation; and, right, Mrs Kathryn McDonald, the congressman's wife, who spent the waiting hours "doing a lot of hoping, a lot of praying".



US may have cracked Soviet code How plane could stray

By William Norris

The missing airliner, a Boeing 747-200B, was equipped with the Union Inertial Navigation System (INS) - a well-tested device which has been in service with civilian airlines for more than a decade.

The system, similar to that used in nuclear submarines, gives a high degree of accuracy and breakdowns are extremely rare. A spokesman for the Boeing company in Seattle said last night that if the system was working it would be inconceivable for the 747 to be 300 miles off course.

It had, however, been fitted with the INS when built in 1972 for Concorde, the package-tour offshoot of Lufthansa. This would make it one of the earliest examples of the device in service. It was sold to Korean Airlines in 1979.

There are a number of possible explanations for the aircraft straying so far off course. Perhaps the most likely is that the crew fed one wrong figure into the computer when setting the waypoint readings on the INS before departure from Anchorage. A second possibility is that the INS became disconnected from the autopilot. This is an uncommon fault, and difficult to spot because there is no warning in the cockpit. When it happens, the aircraft continues on a great circle course - which in this instance

could have taken it to the spot where it disappeared. INS system have also been known to fail when the aircraft is moved on the tarmac prior to the system being locked on.

● The monitoring: One of the remarkable features of the shooting down of the Korean airliner is that the Americans apparently were able to monitor the communications between the Russian fighters and their ground controllers (Rodney Cowton, Our Defence Correspondent, writes). That suggests that the West may have broken the Russian security codes.

The United States has listening posts around the world, and it is

believed that the these are able to monitor voice transmissions from their air base at Misawa in the north of Honshu, the main Japanese island. It also has monitoring stations in South Korea.

Military communications would normally be conducted in code.

According to a spokesman in the American Defence Department, the Korean airliner was shot down by a Russian MiG23. This type is known in Nato as the Flogger. It has been produced in various versions since it was first delivered to the Soviet air force in 1970.



Worst time for crisis to happen

By Henry Stanhope

Diplomatically, the incident could hardly have happened at a worse time, with the United States and Soviet Union looking forward to frequent contacts during the autumn after the long hot summer.

On Tuesday the two delegations to the Geneva talks on Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) resumed for their most crucial phase, with the scheduled deployment of 572 American nuclear missiles in Europe only three months away.

On the following day Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, are also expected to discuss INF and other issues when 35 nations gather in Madrid for the final session of the European Security Review Conference.

On September 20 the UN General Assembly opens, providing another opportunity for foreign ministers to meet "in the margins" and seek solutions to issues dividing them.

On October 4 negotiations on strategic nuclear missiles open in Geneva, after recent optimistic remarks by General Edward Rostow, head of the American delegation.

The great fear must be that yesterday's incident will put back the clock.

'We react with revulsion'

Continued from page 1

As we have no evidence of that there was no, apparently no, ability to communicate between the two aircraft. But as the statement says, the Soviet plane that shot the commercial airliner down moved itself into position with a visual contact with the aircraft, so that with the eye you could inspect the aircraft and see what it was you're looking at.

Q: Do you know whether the Soviets tried to force the airplane down without using missiles?

A: We have no information about, and, as I said, as far as we can see there was no communication between the two aircraft except that they tracked this aircraft for 24 hours. At least

eight fighters at one time of another were around in the vicinity, and the aircraft that shot the plane down was close enough for a visual inspection of the aircraft.

Q: Has there been any announcement of any particular kind of Soviet military exercises or manoeuvres or super-sophisticated radar that might have been in the area, and that they had warned everybody to stay away from?

Q: Is there any explanation?

A: We have no explanation to offer. We can see no explanation whatever for shooting down an unarmed commercial airliner. It doesn't matter whether it's in your airspace or not.

Q: Was the decision to shoot this plane down made at a fairly top level since they were tracking it for a long time?

A: We gave you the facts as we have them at this point, and I can't go beyond the facts that I have here. I'm not going to speculate about it. I'm trying to put forward the facts as we know them, and to tell you the United States Government attitude and my own attitude toward the shooting down of a commercial airliner.

Q: Mr Secretary, do you have any sense as to whether there would be any political motivation for this beyond what you know of?

A: I can't imagine any political motivation for the shooting down of an unarmed airliner.

Washington considers UN plea

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Most said it was too early to tell how the Soviet Union would emerge in terms of its image where it has attempted to persuade, the international community that it is the promulgator of peace.

Some diplomatic observers thought Mr Shultz's statement, although unreservedly strong, still left the Soviet Union room to extricate itself from a tight corner.

They felt the Soviets could confess error and emerge relatively unscathed while silence would produce accusations and an erosion of trust which would be difficult to restore.

Mr Charles Lichenstein, the

American representative to the United Nations, saw the president of the Security Council yesterday to inform him of the incident.

In Montreal, where the International Civil Aviation Organization is based, a spokesman said South Korea had asked the agency to find out from the Soviet Civil Aviation Ministry Union what had happened to the airliner, (Reuters reports).

He said that under international-agreed safety procedures endorsed by the Soviet Union, jets which intercept stray aircraft should tip their wings, make flashing signals and establish contact.

Russia's listening island

New York (AP) - Sakhalin, the Soviet island in the area where the jumbo jet disappeared, is a mountainous, heavily forested island 20 miles off the east coast of the Soviet Union.

The 29,500-square-mile island is part of the Soviet Far East air defence network, with air bases, radar installations and tracking stations.

With the Kuril Islands, it forms the Sakhalin Oblast (Province) of the Soviet Far East.

Sakhalin lies between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan, separated from the Soviet mainland on the west by the Tatar Strait and from Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan by the Soya Strait.

Two parallel mountain ranges run the length of the island, which has a population of about 600,000 people, mostly ethnic Russians. The climate is severe.

There are oil fields in the northeast and pipeline runs to the Soviet mainland.

Under Russian domination after 1875, Sakhalin was the site of penal camps for more than 30,000 criminals and Russian revolutionaries.

Russian writer Anton Chekhov, who visited it, described it as the "place of unbearable suffering". After the Second World War the Soviet Union took over the entire island.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Richard III Society, visits Gloucester to attend the 500th anniversary celebrations to mark the granting of the Charter of Incorporation to the City of Gloucester by King Richard III: arrives St Michael's Tower, Eastgate Street, 3.25; arrives City Museum, Brunswick Road, 3.45; arrives Oxford, 4.15; arrives Guildhall Gloucester, 4.45.
New exhibitions
John Player art of Cricket, City

Art Gallery, exhibition Square, York; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (until Sept 25).
Paintings by Mervyn Charlton, Festival Gallery, 1 Pierpoint Place, Bath; Tues to Sat 11 to 5 (until Sept 10).
Blue Bird, and other works by Philip Bate, Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre Southampton; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 5 (until Sept 25).
New London exhibitions
Royal Society of Marine Artists annual exhibition, The Mall Galleries, The Mall, SW1; Mon to

Sun 10 to 5; (from today until Sept 9).
Rugs and Throws; contemporary textiles, British Crafts Centre, 43 Earlham Street, Covent Garden, WC2E; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Thurs 10 to 5, Sat 11 to 5 closed Sun, from today until Oct 8.
Flower drawings by Toni Hayden, Talent Store Gallery, 11 Eccleston Street, SW1; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, (until Sept 26).
Corne Lucas - a retrospective; Photographer's Gallery, 5-8 Great Newport Street, WC, Tues to Sat 11 to 7 (until Oct 8).
Last chance to see
Virgil in Britain - books and graphics, Somerset County Museum, Taunton Castle, Taunton; 10 to 5 (ends today).
Paintings by Douglas Hills and Cuthbert Bell; Halesworth Gallery, Steeple End, Halesworth; 11 to 5 (ends today).
Closing in London
The New-Found-Land 1583-1949, a postal history, Canada House Cultural Centre, Trafalgar Square, SW1; 10 to 3.30 (ends today).
Painting and prints from art college degree shows; Morley Gallery, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1; 10 to 6 (ends today).

Roads

London and South-east: A102: The northbound bore of the Blackwall Tunnel will close at 8 pm today; two-way traffic will use a southbound bore. M20: All traffic using the coach and busway at Swanley, Kent, A303 Reconstructing works on the Staines by-pass between Stanwell Moor Road and the Watlington roundabout.
Wales and West: M5: Traffic sharing northbound carriageway at junction 2 (M49 and Coventry) three miles between junctions 3 (M50 junction) and 9 (A583 junction). A4: Resurfacing work at Bristol Hill, Bristol; delays. A487: Three sets of temporary traffic lights at Tal-y-llyn, Gwynedd.
Midlands and East Angles: M54: Several lane closures on Telford by-pass; diversion at junction 5. A446: Roadworks and repairs at Jack O'Watson Bridge, Colwyn Bay, Warrington; single lane traffic, with temporary traffic lights. A155 and A52: Stages in illuminations likely to draw extra traffic. M6: North-bound entry slip road closed at junction 2 (M49 and Coventry) East; M69/M6 junction is not affected.
North: M62: Resurfacing; two-way traffic on one carriageway between junctions 21 and 24 (Huddersfield). A583: Construction work; contraflow system operating at Rivesley, Preston, Lancashire. A59: Temporary signals, three miles east of Bolton Bridge, Bolton Abbey, North Yorkshire.
Scotland: A86: Road realignment south-west of Loch Laggan, Inverness-shire; single lane traffic with temporary traffic lights. A9: Resurfacing at St James' Interchange (junction 29), Strathclyde; contraflow system operating on westbound side. M74: Roadworks; southbound carriageway closed between junctions 4 and 3 (Hamilton and Larkhall) Roadworks.
Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

Leading articles in the early editions of today's Fleet Street newspapers are mostly concerned with domestic issues, but there is a general reaction of shock to the news of the alleged shooting down of the Soviet Union airliner by the Soviet Union.
The Daily Mail says that the "callous action" should serve as a sharp reminder to our leaders, who are now having on the press the intentions of the USSR, which they contrast with the warmongering of the United States.
The Daily Express says: "The world is stunned at the news." "Along with sympathy for the victims, there must go a worldwide determination to ensure that this will never happen again. Mr Andropov himself should undertake the investigation of what went wrong."
Otherwise, domestic issues predominate.
The Daily Star notes that Sir Robin Day is apologised for disclosing a private conversation he had with Mr Michael Foot over the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano, and comments: "A journalist must keep a confidential diary. It's part of our code of conduct."
But, the paper adds, "It's sickening that Mr Foot was apparently prepared to whisper to Sir Robin behind closed doors that Mr Thatcher had no opinion but to sink the Belgrano... but he wasn't prepared to say it in public."
The paper asks: "Just how many more errors do our politicians have? Do the really say one thing in private... and the opposite in public? Of course they do, some of them all the time. That's why the public views so many politicians with so much cynicism."
The Daily Mail says: "Thank Heavens for Sir Robin Day" and believes that although he betrayed a confidence he has in truth nothing of which to be ashamed."
The paper observes: "It is one of the highest duties of a journalist to expose humbug, especially among the high and mighty. And the posture of Mr Foot and his party over the Belgrano was a classic bit of hypocrisy."
"What a fortunate man is Mr Ian McGregor," the paper says, "who has been spared the task of exposing the hypocrisy of Mr Foot and his party over the Belgrano. He takes over the National Coal Board at a moment when the industry has been smitten by an outbreak of common sense."
The paper comments: "Providing he proceeds with caution as well as determination, Mr McGregor has an excellent chance of putting the coal board's house in order."
The Daily Mirror notes that in a speech in Scotland, Mrs Thatcher compared herself with Winston Churchill, "which shows the stakes at least one of his qualities. He wasn't modest either."
The paper observes: "Lucky she didn't say it in Wales. One of the policies Sir Winston followed in was sending the troops into Tonypandy to end a strike by the miners there. But he was a Liberal then, of course. So perhaps that doesn't count."
The paper continues: "Mrs Thatcher also claimed that her economic policies were very similar to Churchill's. That rings true. Under Sir Geoffrey Howe came along, Sir Winston was probably the worst Chancellor of the Exchequer this century."

Weather forecast

A vigorous depression will move across Northern Ireland with troughs of low pressure crossing all areas.

6am to midnight

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